

**PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Clarify weekly commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140(b) and (d) are amended to read:

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from October 1 through March 31. Fishing periods will be as follows:

(1) [THE] fishing [PERIODS IN OCTOBER] will occur during periods set by the commissioner by emergency order; the weekly fishing period [PERIODS] will be on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; **beginning in November, fishing periods may be extended by emergency order to obtain the guideline harvest level;**

(2) [THE FISHING PERIODS FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH WILL OCCUR DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON TUESDAY EACH WEEK DURING PERIODS SET BY THE COMMISSIONER BY EMERGENCY ORDER, EXCEPT THAT] during the week of Thanksgiving, **the** fishing period [PERIODS] will occur **on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** [DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON SUNDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY; THESE FISHING PERIODS MAY BE EXTENDED BY EMERGENCY ORDER TO OBTAIN THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL].

...

(d) Except as specified in (l) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any weekly fishing period established by the department. Harvest limits may be repealed by emergency order if guideline harvest levels have not been reached. **Open fishing times occurring on Monday and Tuesday each week, or on Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving, are considered one open period.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Language in the sea cucumber management plan defining a fishing period is unclear and confusing. Open fishing times that occur on Monday and Tuesday (or Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving) are not clearly defined as one fishing period. This is important since there is a 2,000 pound trip limit for each fishing period established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department). There is general understanding among users, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the department that fishery openings occurring on Monday and Tuesday are considered one fishing period and the trip limit applies accordingly. Clarification of the weekly fishing period will remove any confusion that exists.

All fishery openings are being described by starting and ending times, in place of “daylight hours” from November through March, to reflect actual practice.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F14-101)

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**PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Reduce commercial sea cucumber fishing periods in October and establish specific fishing times in November, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (a)

(1) the fishing periods in October will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order; the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **The fishing periods starting in November will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order, the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Reduce the sea cucumber fishery from 1 1/2 days to one day per week during the month of October. This may help extend the season. The fishing time beginning in November would go back to 1 1/2 days per week.

**PROPOSED BY:** Phil Doherty (EF-C14-059)

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**PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Allow increased trip limit and permit stacking in commercial sea cucumber fishery, follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan

(d) Except as specified in (l) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumber during any fishing period established by the department **except if they are operated a stacked permit which will allow them to harvest an additional 50% of the established harvest limit.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The sea cucumber fishery is facing a declining resource due to an increasing sea otter population. Sea otters will severely reduce if not eliminate sea cucumbers in a harvest area once they become established in that area. Sea cucumber divers are looking at reducing the amount of effort on the fishing grounds as areas are eliminated from harvest and the remaining fishing grounds become more crowded. Sea cucumber divers are managed on a 2,000 pound trip limit per open period. Sea cucumber divers would like to be able to stack permits with the second permit only being allowed 50% of the harvest limit. That is if a diver buys a second transferable permit then if the established harvest limit is 2,000 pounds the diver could harvest 3,000 pounds.

This should not affect the department's abilities to correctly manage the fishery. They would need to know how many stacked permits are available to fish in making their weekly harvest calculations.

This may also slow the fishery down which may help the market price.

**PROPOSED BY:** Phil Doherty (EF-C14-057)

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