

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 34.210. Fishing seasons, for Registration Area E, 5 AAC 34.217. Guideline harvest range for Registration Area E, 5 AAC 34.225. Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

Amend Registration Area E king crab fishing seasons, guideline harvest level (GHL), and lawful gear regulations, as follows:

Amend the current regulations for king crab in area E to read as follows:

5 AAC 34.210 Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

(a) The commercial taking of Red King crab and Blue King crab in registration area E is closed until these stocks have recovered enough for a harvest strategy to be developed by the department and adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

(b) Golden King crab may be taken from January 15 through March 15 only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner

5 AAC 34.17 Guideline harvest range for Registration Area E.

The Guideline harvest range for Golden King crab is 0-60,000 lbs. The guideline harvest level shall be set annually by the department based on estimated abundance levels.

5 AAC 34.255 Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

(a) King crab may only be taken with King crab pots as defined in 34.050

(b) The overall pot limit for the Golden King crab commercial fishery is 200 pots.

(c) For the Golden King crab commercial fishery, the vessel pot limit will be determined by dividing the overall pot limit (200) by the number of vessels registered for the fishery with a maximum vessel pot limit of 15 pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I would like to address is that there has been no season for Golden King crab in over thirty years. There has been no survey done in 15 years. We need to conduct a small scale commercial fishery to assess stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Linville

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