

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. Correct a district reference for Holkham Bay and a misspelling of Point Astley, as follows:

5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. (a) Repealed ____ / ____ / ____ [THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 10 IN HOLKHAM BAY EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT COKE TO POINT ASTLEY.]

- (b) The waters of District 11
 - (1) in Taku Inlet north of the latitude of Point Bishop;
 - (2) in Port Snettisham east of a line from Point Styleman to Point Anmer;
 - (3) in Holkham Bay east of a line from Point Coke to Point Astley.**
- (c) The waters of District 14 in Glacier Bay north of the latitude of Point Gustavus.
- (d) The waters of District 15 in Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Point Sherman Light.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations defining blue king crab fishing areas in Registration Area A reference Holkham Bay as part of District 10. Holkham Bay is actually part of District 11. This proposal corrects that district reference, and corrects a misspelling for Point Astley.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-094)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery; 5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 77.164. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery. Increase legal size limit for blue king crab in subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries in Registration Areas A and D, as follows:

5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery. In the subsistence taking of king crab,
...
(3) in the districts described in 5 AAC 30.200

- (A) red and blue king crab may not be taken from April 1 through June 30;
- (B) only male red, **blue**, and golden king crab seven inches or larger [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER,] in width of shell may be taken or possessed;

5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A. In Registration Area A, only male king crab seven inches or greater of width of shell may be taken or possessed except that
...
(3) repealed ____ / ____ / ____ [MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED];

5 AAC 34.180. Size limits for Registration Area D. The size limits for king crab in Registration Area D are the same as those described for king crab in Registration Area A in 5 AAC 34.120.

5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery. In the personal use taking of king crab,

...
(2) the daily bag and possession limit is two male king crab; only male red, **blue**, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL] may be possessed; male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed;

5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery.

- ...
(3) the king crab size limits are as follows:
(A) only male red, **blue**, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed; and
(B) **repealed** _____ / _____ / _____ [ONLY BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER IN SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, blue king crab are harvested commercially during the red king crab, golden king crab, and Tanner crab fisheries, and caught during subsistence and personal use fisheries in Southeast Alaska and the Yakutat Area. The current legal size is six and one-half inches carapace width. Other king crab species, such as red king crab and golden king crab, have a current legal size of seven inches carapace width, with biological information to support these legal sizes. There is no biological justification for the six and one-half inch blue king crab legal size. Blue king crab share similar biology with golden king crab and red king crab and have the longest reproductive cycle, making them more susceptible to overfishing at a reduced legal size.

Size limits are an important management tool used to allow harvest on the portion of a crab population that has reached sexual maturity and has been allowed time to contribute reproductively to the population to allow for future recruitment. These regulations will better provide that opportunity under commercial, subsistence, and personal use regulations, and will make size limits consistent for king crab within Southeast and the Yakutat areas.

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