

**PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 34.935. Closed waters in Registration Area Q.** Extend the closure line north for the Norton Sound Section commercial king crab fishery from 64° 10' N. lat to 64° 15' N. lat., as follows:

Make the north closure line straight across the west to East on the 64 15' N Lat. line.

5 AAC-34.395. Closed waters in Registration Area Q.

- (a) Except as provided in 5 AAC 34.915 (a) (6), all waters of the Norton Sound Section enclosed by a line from 64° 24.00'N. lat. 166° 15.00'W long., to 64° 15.00'N. lat., 166° 15.00' W long., **[to 64° 15.00'N. LAT., 163° 30.00'W LONG., to 64° 10.00'N. LAT., 163° 30.00'W LONG., to 64° 10.00'N. LAT., 162° 00.00' W LONG., to 64° 15.00'N. LAT., 162° 00.00' W LONG.,]** to 64° 15.00'N. lat., 161° 30.00' W long., to 64° 00.00' N, lat., 161° 30.00' W long., to 64° 00.00' N lat., 161° 15.00' W long., to 63° 32.00'N lat., 161° 15.00' W long. are closed to the taking of king crab during the summer season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the board to return the closure line along the north coast of Norton Sound to the old closure line that ran continuously on 64° 15'N Lat. While closure areas are important to protect female and juvenile crab. The need for as much closed area has decrease with the commercial crab fleet now require to use escapement mesh or rings. The use of these rings has decrease the number female and juvenile crab handled by the commercial crab fleet. Returning to the old closure line will also allow the commercial crabbers to spread out and reduce gear conflicts between commercial crabbers. The straight line across will make it fair for crabbers leaving both Nome and Golovin. Currently crabbers from Golovin must travel further to get to open are that those in Nome.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randy Takak (HQ-F16-038)  
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**PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 02.607. Subsistence fishing gear; and 5 AAC 39.105. Types of legal gear.** Add a definition for crab rakes and allow crab rakes as lawful subsistence shellfish gear north of Cape Newenham, as follows:

In that portion of the area north of the latitude of Cape Newenham, shell fish may only be taken by shovel, RAKE, jigging gear, pots and ring net.

5 AAC 39.105. TYPES OF LEGAL GEAR. (d)(31) a **crab rake** is a handheld implement no longer than 16 feet, equiped with one or more prongs used to gather crab.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

Rakes are commonly used to harvest crab in the Norton Sound Section and may be used generally in the Northern District of the Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea. When handlining it is common practice to place a rake in the ice hole so that it can be used to move the crab up through the hole. With the establishment of the Spiny King Crab in in the Norton Sound Section, rakes have been found to be an effective method to catch crab wedged between boulders. During the transition period of ice break-up in eastern Norton Sound red King Crab are caught using rakes at Cape Denbigh, Besboro Island, and the rocky coast near Kliketarik.

**PROPOSED BY:** Charles Lean (HQ-F16-040)  
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