

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan.

Open an exploratory commercial red king crab fishery in specific areas during years of low estimated abundance, as follows:

(c) on years the departments estimate of the available harvest is below the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab, there will be an exploratory fishery in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 south of Devils Elbow at 56. 34.73 N. lat., 6 south of Midway Rock at 56.31.84 N. lat., 7, 8 south of Banana Point at 56.33.11 N. lat., and Outside Waters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The size and scope of the of Red King Crab biomass in Southern Southeast Alaska is unknown. The state has limited resources, tasking the department to conduct an extensive survey to quantify the biomass of Red King Crab in Southern Southeast Alaska is not an option. Having an exploratory Red King Crab fishery in non surveyed areas that also have traditionally low effort/harvest(Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, outside waters and portions of Districts 5, 6 and 8)on years that the Southeast Red King Crab biomass estimate does not meet the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male Red King Crab, would provide the state with revenue, fisherman with opportunity, and the department with valuable(free)survey information

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