

PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 38.168. Guideline harvest range for the taking of scallops in Registration Area D.

Remove guideline harvest range for District 16 scallops and set one guideline harvest range for all of Scallop Registration Area D, as follows:

In Scallop Registration Area D, described in 5 AAC 38.076(b) (2), the guideline harvest range for the taking of weathervane scallops is ~~as follows: 0 - 285,000 pounds of shucked meats~~
(1) ~~in District 16 as described in 5 AAC 33.200(p) : zero — 35,000 pounds of shucked meat;~~
(2) ~~in the remainder of Scallop Registration Area D: zero — 250,000 pounds of shucked meat.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Combine scallop areas Area D and Area 16. Scallop beds cross the line separating these two areas making it difficult to harvest and manage.

Area 16 can be an unpredictable area for fishing scallops. Some years catch rates and meats are too small, while other years catch rates are quite good and meats larger, making this a difficult area to manage, fish and plan for year to year.

If there was Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) encompassing both areas, fishermen would go to areas of higher catch rates whether in Area D or 16 and not fish in an area of lower catch rates just because there was a GHL set in there. Fishermen if allowed naturally will tend to fish in areas of highest catch rates, therefore this regulation change would help avoid needless localized depletion in areas of low catch rates.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-F17-023)
