

PROPOSAL 181

5 AAC 31.112. Sidestripe shrimp beam trawl fishing in Registration Area A.

Open a directed sidestripe beam trawl fishery in District 8 for remainder of November-February season once the directed shrimp beam trawl fishery has closed, as follows:

5 AAC 31.112 add line (8) to section (b) to read, upon the closure of the Area 8, 4th pink quota of the year. The stand alone sidestripe shrimp trawl fishery will be opened until February 28th or the sidestripe quota has been taken.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Over the last 20 years there have been limited times when there was a market for peeler shrimp (small pink/sidestripe shrimp). The few beam trawlers fishing during these times worked primarily on larger sidestripe shrimp for the fresh, and frozen tail, and head-on markets. The best quality of sidestripe shrimp in Area 8 show up in the winter months, with the least amount of by-catch. In past years Fish & Game has been reluctant to open the stand alone sidestripe fishery after the 4th quota of the year is taken. The only reasoning I was told was lack of data, that I find hard to believe in a fishery that has been going since 1929. If nothing is changed the shrimp fisherman in area 8 will continue to lose opportunity and income. I looked at many different options from splitting quotas and redrawing area lines. This being the easiest least complicated way of addressing the issue without affecting the Trawlers fishing Pink shrimp. Any trawler would still be able to request a standalone sidestripe shrimp trawl fishery be opened after any one of the three earlier openings.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Stillwaugh

(EF-F20-125)
