

**PROPOSAL 189**

**5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.**

Allow the department to increase the number of divers allowed to fish from a vessel from two to four by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 38.142. Southeast Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. (p) During an open geoduck fishing period, no more than two CFEC geoduck permit holders may conduct fishing operations from, or deliver geoducks from, a vessel licensed and registered to commercially fish for geoduck. From 24 hours before, during and for 24 hours after a fishing period, or when commercially harvested geoducks are on board the vessel, no more than three CFEC geoduck permit holders may be on board a vessel that is registered to commercially fish for geoduck.

**(1) The commissioner may by emergency order modify the number of CFEC geoduck permit holders able to be onboard or fish from a registered vessel to four divers.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the geoduck clam fishery only 2 divers can fish from one vessel (5 AAC 38.142 (p)). However, late in the season it is often difficult to harvest the guideline harvest level (GHL) in some remote areas. We would like to have up to four CFEC geoduck permit holders conduct fishing operations from a vessel that is registered to commercially fish for geoducks to make it more economical to harvest the remaining GHL. This would be done late in the season when only remote areas are open.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F20-099)

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