

PROPOSAL 204

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close the Dungeness crab sport fishery in the vicinity of Coffman Cove, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(i)(3)In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity – Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Coffman Cove south and west of a line extending from a point at 56°01.348'N lat., 132°49.673'W long, to a point located at 56°01.711'N lat., 132°51.008'W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Coffman Cove have a large tourist population who flood the waters directly in front of Coffman Cove. The tourists then leave Coffman Cove in their boats to fish the waters outside Coffman Cove and check their Dungeness crab pots when they return. The non-resident tourists’ fish their limits of Dungeness crab pots. Residents of Coffman Cove continue to have direct competition between the non-resident tourists during the summer months as well as the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen. Local Residents are seeking a very small area directly in front the City of Coffman Cove for a subsistence only area. Coffman Cove is a small community with mostly seasonal based employment. A small area closed to both commercial Dungeness crab fishing and sport fishing will allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Coffman Cove subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living on Prince of Wales Island. The non-resident sport fishermen would not be impacted by this small area closed fishing area as they can go a short distance to deploy their Dungeness crab pots.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-085)
