PROPOSAL 254
5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.
Amend closed waters to allow use of beam trawl gear for the harvest of shrimp, as follows:

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.
(a) The following waters are closed to the taking of shrimp with **Otter** trawl gear:
  (1) waters enclosed by a line from Point Whitshed to Point Bentinck, a line from Cape Hinchinbrook Light to Seal Rocks Light to Zaikof Point at 60° 18.48' N. lat., 146° 55.10' W. long., and by a line from a point at 60° 11.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long. on the northwest side of Montague Island, north to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long., then east to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 00.00' W. long., then northeast to Knowles Head at 60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long.;
  (2) the waters east of a line from Porcupine Point at 60° 44.60' N. lat., 146° 42.10' W. long. in Port Fidalgo to the southernmost tip of Bligh Island at 60° 48.30' N. lat., 146° 47.90' W. long. to the northernmost tip of Bligh Island at 60° 52.90' N. lat., 146° 46.00' W. long. to Rocky Point at 60° 57.00' N. lat., 146° 46.20' W. long.;
  (3) waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point at 60° 37.37' N, lat., 147° 15.22' W. long. to Red Head at 60° 40.25' N. lat., 147° 30.22' W. long.;
  (4) waters of Port Valdez north of 61° 01.00' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Waters of eastern Prince William Sound were closed to all shrimp trawl gear due to worries about protecting crab grounds. I am proposing allowing Beam trawl gear only in this area. Beam trawls due to their lower tow speed and smaller opening size have little impact on none target species. Beam Trawls have been shown in southeast to be able to coexist alongside highly productive crab fisheries for many years. The long distance from Cordova and deep water of western Prince William sound makes participation in this fishery difficult for many boats.

PROPOSED BY: Ezekiel Brown   (EF-F20-138)
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