

PROPOSAL 273

5 AAC 34.425. Lawful gear for Registration Area K.

Allow longlining of pot gear for Registration Area K golden king crab, as follows:

Change the regulations to allow for the longlining of pots in the registration area K golden king crab fishery. The regulation would mirror that for registration area Q. Under 5 AAC 34.425, a new subsection (e) would be added, which would read: **'In Registration area K, pots used to take golden king crab may be longlined. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.051, a buoy is not required for each pot, but each end of the longline must be marked by a cluster of four buoys. One buoy in the cluster must be marked in accordance with the specifications of 5 AAC 34.051 and include the initials "SL" to identify that the pots are on a shellfish longline. For the purposes of this subsection, "shellfish longline" is a stationary, buoyed, and anchored line with more than one shellfish pot attached.'**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, in the Kodiak area (registration area K) golden king crab fishery, crab may only be harvested with single-set pots (one buoy setup per pot). In the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (registration areas O and Q) the longlining of pots for golden king crab is permitted. Due to the deeper-water nature of the fishery, pot longlines are more efficient and result in less gear loss, as demonstrated in the BSAI. Pot longlines should be permitted in other areas where there is a viable golden king crab fishery (such as in area K).

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