PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 38.2XX. New section.

Establish a commercial fishery for sea cucumbers in Registration Area E, as follows:

Create a fishery for sea cucumbers in registration Area E. This fishery would provide opportunity for local fishermen to diversify their income and would boost the winter time economy in local communities. ADFG would have full authority to set yearly guideline harvest levels and set season duration within the regulatory dates.

Draft regulatory language:

5 AAC 38.2XX. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in Registration Area E.

The commercial taking of sea cucumbers in Registration Area E may only occur from October 1 thru March 1 under conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Limited fishing opportunity exists in the winter months in Area E, and we are seeking ways to help Area E salmon fishermen diversify their income during the off-season. Anecdotal reports indicate high numbers of sea cucumbers in Prince William Sound, but there is currently no management plan in regulation.