

PROPOSAL 200

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. and 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 commercial and nonresident sport fisheries in the vicinity of Klawock, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness crab by non-residents and commercial Dungeness crab fishermen: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; east of Entrance Point at 55 31.200N, -133 07.627W extending to a point in Shinaku Inlet at 55 34.721N, -133 13.382W will be closed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close the waters to non-resident fishing & commercial fishing for Dungeness crab east of Entrance Point at 55 31.200N, -133 07.627W extending to a point in Shinaku Inlet at 55 34.721N, -133 13.382W.

Klawock has a large tourist population which flood the waters directly in front of Klawock Inlet, Shinaku Inlet, and Big Salt Lake with crab pot gear. The tourists deploy gear in the immediate area surrounding Klawock, they then leave the area of Klawock and Craig to sport fish in outside waters. The non-resident fishermen check their crab pots when they return to the immediate surrounding waters. Community members of Klawock continue to see the non-resident tourists fish their limits of Dungeness crab pots. Residents of Klawock continue to have direct competition with the non-resident tourists during the summer months as well as the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen during the fall and winter months. Klawock residents are seeking an exceedingly small area surrounding Klawock for a subsistence only area. Klawock is a small community with limited amenities and employment opportunities. A small area closed to both commercial Dungeness fishermen and sport fishermen will allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Klawock subsistence fishermen to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. The non-resident sport fishermen would not be impacted by this small closed fishing area as they can go a short distance in closed waters to safely deploy sport fish Dungeness crab pots.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-059)
