

PROPOSAL 206

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 Whale Pass, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(i)(3)In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity – Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters near Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56°05.806'N lat., 133°06.520'W long, to a point located at 56°05.616'N lat., 133°07.333'W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Whale Pass has a large tourist population which floods the waters directly in front of the residences of Whale Pass. Members of Whale Pass continue to see these non-resident tourists’ fish their limits of Dungeness crab pots as well as check other people’s pots in the vicinity. Residents of Whale Pass continue to have direct competition between the non-resident tourists during the summer months as well as the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen in the fall and winter months. Local Residents are seeking a very small area directly in front the City of Whale Pass for a subsistence only area. Whale Pass is a small community with very few jobs and amenities. A small area closed to both commercial Dungeness crab fishing and sport fishing will allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Whale Pass subsistence fisherman 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 area closed fishing area as they can go a short distance (furthest distance is a mile) in protected waters to deploy sport fish Dungeness crab pots.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-084)
