

PROPOSAL 262

5 AAC 02.310. Subsistence miscellaneous shellfish fishery.

Reduce the bag limit in the Cook Inlet Area subsistence clam fishery, as follows:

Amend (b)(2)

(b) In the subsistence taking of clams,

...

(2) there are no bag, possession, or size limits for clams, except that for littleneck and butter clams the bag and possession limit is **40** [80] clams of either species or in combination and the minimum legal size is as follows:

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hardshell clams (Pacific littleneck clam and butter clam) have declined to historical low abundances throughout Kachemak Bay. Recent monitoring in three subareas (Jakolof Bay, China Poot Bay, and Chugachik Island) has found that densities of legal-sized hardshell clams have declined 94 to 100% from their historical densities in all subareas. Additionally, the recent observed densities of sublegal-sized hardshell clams in these subareas suggests that these stocks will not likely recover soon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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