PROPOSAL 2
5 AAC 5 AAC 28.250. Closed Waters in Prince William Sound Area.
Reopen waters closed to the harvest of groundfish in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 28.250. Closed waters in Prince William Sound Area
(a) ~~Groundfish may not be taken with pots in the waters enclosed by lines from Point Whitshed to Point Bentinck, from Cape Hinchinbrook Light to Seal Rocks Light to Zaikof Point at 60° 18.48' N. lat., 146° 55.10' W. long., and from a point at 60° 11' N. lat., 147° 20' W. long. on the northwest side of Montague Island, north to a point at 60° 30' N. lat., 147° 20' W. long., then east to a point at 60° 30' N. lat., 147° 00' W. long., then northeast to Knowles Head at 60° 41' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long., except that groundfish may be taken with pot. (1) within Orca Bay, east of 146° 37.50' W. long., excluding the waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point to Red Head at 60° 40.25' N. lat., 146° 30.22' W. long.; (2) in waters not more than 75 fathoms deep within waters enclosed by a line from Johnstone Point Light to Montague Point at 60° 23' N. lat., 147° 06' W. long., to Middle Point at 60° 20.50' N. lat., 147° W. long. to Schooner Rock Light (Zaikof Point) to Cape Hinchinbrook Light.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This will correct the action previously taken that closed one gear type out of waters of what is some of the most productive pcod grounds in Prince William Sound during some years. This regulation was passed under the guise of protecting juvenile tanner crab, however with new slinky pot technology crab bycatch is no longer a large issue. If anything, allowing pot harvest in this area will help the crab stocks by reducing predatory pcod biomass. This will also help to curb rockfish bycatch by incentivizing fisherman to fish with slinky pots opposed to hook and line. *Rev.*

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B Jones   (HQ-F24-008)
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