

PROPOSAL 213

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated.

5 AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. (g) The guideline harvest level for each area will be calculated as two percent of the most recent estimated biomass, **using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval**, per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the geoduck clam fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHIL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery.

- What would happen if nothing is changed?

There would remain annual confusion as to whether ADF&G is managing for the lower end of the confidence level or the mid-point. Also, in commercial areas where there is not significant sea otter predation, whenever these areas are re-surveyed, the GHIL has increased. We believe using the lower bound of the one-sided 90% confidence interval is overly conservative and using the mid-point would enable fuller utilization of the resource while still adequately conserving the geoduck stock.

- What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?

It is possible to discuss on an annual basis the department’s management goal, however SARDFA believes this would eliminate any confusion on how the fishery is being managed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The SARDFA geoduck committee which is comprised of 20 CFEC permit holders worked on developing this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-087)
