

**PROPOSAL 237**

**5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.**

Expand the defined Lower Chatham Strait Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include a portion of District 5.

5AAC 34.107 – Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A

(a) Northern Area: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.

(b) Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(c) North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiére Point at 56°35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(e) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56°33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(f) Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56°18.67' N. lat. **And all waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' lat.**

(g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56°20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When the current golden king crab fishing areas were developed, core fishing areas were captured but some grounds that were open and previously fished got left out as they were less utilized areas. The status of the areas being incorporated in a fishing area are not listed as closed waters but they are also not listed in a fishing area open to fishing for Golden King Crab. Capturing these historical fishing grounds will provide more opportunities and area to fish, possibly leading to less congestion in some areas. At the last Board of Fish meeting some of these undesigned fishing grounds were added to the Southern Area.

This proposal adds in the waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker into the Lower Chatham Strait Area.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Developed proposal with help of SEAFA but without enough time for them to agree to be a sponsor.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Thomassen

(HQ-F24-024)

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