

**PROPOSAL 281**

**5 AAC 39.646. Shellfish onboard observer trainee program qualifications and requirements.**

Amend observer trainee minimum qualifications, as follows:

5 AAC 39.646 is amended to read:

(a) To qualify as a crab onboard observer trainee, an applicant must have one of the following:

(1) a Bachelor degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in the sciences of biology, any branch of biology, or limnology that includes a minimum of 30 semester hours in applicable biological sciences with use of dichotomous keys in at least one course, and the successful completion of at least one course [EACH] in mathematics [AND STATISTICS WITH A MINIMUM OF FIVE SEMESTER HOURS TOTAL FOR BOTH]; or

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In practice, specifying minimum course requirements to the level currently in regulation is not critical to the observer performing their duties and creates an unnecessary burden for observer provider companies when recruiting candidates for the observer program.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-164)

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