

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 34.215. Guideline harvest levels

Adopt a harvest strategy for golden king crab in Prince William Sound, as follows:

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[REPEALED 6/30/83]

(a) Fishery performance based on logbook and inseason reported CPUE of legal male crab will be used to manage the fishery area in season and postseason to set GHL. The following reference points will be used to make these management decisions

Target CPUE of 2 legal male Golden King Crab

Trigger CPUE of 1.5 legal male Golden King Crab

Limit CPUE of 1 legal male Golden King Crab

(b) In Registration Area E, the GHL will be set at 10,000lbs but will be adjusted based on fishery performance determined from commercial fishermen logbook CPUE of legal male crab as follows:

The GHL will be increased for the following season for any of the following reasons:

If the most recent season CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is > Target CPUE the GHL will increase by 20% the following season.

If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and \leq Target CPUE legal male crab and > Trigger the GHL will increase by 10% the following season.

If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is \leq Trigger and > Limit the GHL may increase up to a maximum of 5% the following season

The GHL will be decreased for the following season for any of the following reasons:

If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Limit CPUE and \leq Trigger CPUE GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 40% the following season

If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Trigger Cpue and \leq Target CPUE the GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 20% the following season

(c) Fishery performance by statistical area will be assessed inseason with a minimum requirement of 200 pot lifts per statistical area before taking management action under the following guidelines:

If logbook CPUE is \geq Target manage to GHL.

If logbook CPUE is \geq Trigger but < Target manage to GHL and monitor closely

If logbook CPUE is \geq Limit and < Trigger close statistical area for remainder of season.

If logbook CPUE is <Limit close fishery statistical area remainder of season and subsequent closure of statistical area of 1 year for commercial fisheries the following season, depending upon a postseason review.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a GHL and Harvest strategy for Golden King Crab in PWS that uses commercial CPUE to trigger closures much like the strategy proposed for Southeast GKC by Andrew Olson and Katie Palof in 2023 "Recommended Harvest Strategy for Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab".

We set CPUE target levels based on input from crab fishermen with experience targeting Golden King Crab in PWS. These reference points compare well those in the Southeast fishery, which sets target CPUE at 1.6 - 4.1 legal males depending on the area. The Trigger and limit levels were set at 75% and 50% of the target. These CPUE ranges correspond well with what limited information we have about the CPUE in PWS in the 1980s and the recent test fishery for Golden King Crab.

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

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)

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