

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on behalf of Board Member Jensen

March 19, 2014

Substitute Language for Proposal 346

5 AAC 34.915 is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.915. Norton Sound Section red king crab harvest strategy. (a) The department shall manage the Norton Sound Section summer season red king crab fishery in accordance with 5 AAC 34.080 **and 5 AAC 34.910**, as follows:

(1) the threshold level of abundance of legal male red king crab biomass is 1.25 million pounds; the Norton Sound red king crab season may open only if analysis of preseason survey data indicates that the population of legal male red king crab exceeds this level;

(2) if the Norton Sound red king crab season is open under (1) of this subsection and the legal male red king crab biomass is less than two million pounds, the number of legal male red king crab available for harvest will be no more than seven percent of the legal male red king crab abundance;

(3) if the Norton Sound red king crab season is open under (1) of this subsection and the legal male red king crab biomass is at least two million pounds, but less than three million pounds, the number of legal male red king crab available for harvest will be no more than 13 percent of the legal male red king crab abundance;

(4) if the Norton Sound red king crab season is open under (1) of this subsection and the legal male red king crab biomass is three million pounds or more, the number of legal male red king crab available for harvest will be no more than 15 percent of the legal male red king crab abundance;

(5) when applying this harvest strategy, the department shall consider the reliability of the estimates of abundance of red king crab, other factors necessary to be consistent with sustained yield principles, [AND] the best scientific information available, **and harvest efficiency;**

(6) the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce by small increments, the closed waters described in 5 AAC 34.935(a) to no less than three miles from mean lower low tide to allow the commercial king crab fishery to efficiently obtain the allowable harvest of red king crab.

(b) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.690(e)(7), the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a CDQ fishery in Norton Sound, with an allocation of 7.5 percent of the forecasted guideline harvest level for male red king crab.

5 AAC 34.935(a) is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.935. Closed waters in Registration Area Q. (a) All waters of the Norton Sound Section enclosed by a line from 64° 24.00' N. lat., 166° 15.00' W. long., to 64° 15.00' N. lat., 166° 15.00' W. long., to 64° 15.00' N. lat., 163° 30.00' W. long., to 64° 10.00' N. lat., 163°

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30.00' W. long., to 64° 10.00' N. lat., 162° 00.00' W. long., to 64° 15.00' N. lat., 162° 00.00' W. long., to 64° 15.00' N. lat., 161° 30.00' W. long., to 64° 00.00' N. lat., 161° 30.00' W. long., to 64° 00.00' N. lat., 161° 15.00' W. long., to 63° 32.00' N. lat., 161° 15.00' W. long. are closed to the taking of king crab during the summer season. [THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, REDUCE BY SMALL INCREMENTS, THE CLOSED WATERS TO NO LESS THAN THREE MILES FROM MEAN LOWER LOW TIDE TO ALLOW THE COMMERCIAL KING CRAB FISHERY TO EFFICIENTLY OBTAIN THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST OF RED KING CRAB.]