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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: January 20, 2022*

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### Prince William Sound Area Tanner Crab Test Fishery Opportunity

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) is soliciting bids to contract vessels to conduct a test fishery using pot gear to harvest up to 30,000 lb of Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS). ADF&G seeks to gather information on the current health of the PWS Tanner crab stock in areas outside and within the ADF&G trawl survey areas, and outside of the commercial fishery area (Northeastern District). Specifically, the purpose of the test fishery is to collect information on legal male catch rate, male size composition, and distribution of Tanner crab within each test fishery Lot.

The PWS Tanner crab Test Fishery will be conducted between February 22 and April 9, 2022. The minimum bid price is \$0.80 per pound of Tanner crab harvested. Bids will be accepted for 6 individual Lots (A-F) up to a maximum harvest level of 5,000 lb per Lot of legal male Tanner crab, equal to or greater than 5 inches shell width.

Vessel owners interested in obtaining a request-for-quotation (RFQ) sheet should contact Elisa Russ by phone at 907-399-1721 (cell), e-mail [elisa.russ@alaska.gov](mailto:elisa.russ@alaska.gov), or leave a voicemail request for the packet, including contact information, at the Homer office at 907-235-8191. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ADF&G encourages the public to ask questions by phone and submit quotes by fax (907-235-2448) or e-mail ([elisa.russ@alaska.gov](mailto:elisa.russ@alaska.gov)).

Bids must be received by 12:00 noon February 17, 2022. See RFQ for submission information.

Lots A-F are in defined areas of PWS with corresponding statistical areas (Figure 1). Within each Lot, 25 mandatory pot locations are defined, except that there are 10 mandatory pot locations in Lot F; pots must be set within 0.5 nautical miles of these specific locations. The maximum 5,000 lb Tanner crab harvest level for each Lot includes harvest from these mandatory locations. Additional pot locations fished within each Lot will be decided by the vessel operator. Statistical Area 486005 (Icy Bay/Whale Bay) in Lot E is limited to 500 lb of harvest. There is a maximum gear limit of 25 Tanner crab pots per vessel; pot tags are required, and the vessel must be registered for the 2022 PWS Tanner crab commercial fishery for the operator to bid and participate in the test fishery. The vessel operator is required to have prior commercial Tanner crab fishing experience. Winning bidders will receive Lot packets with specific maps, including latitude and longitude of mandatory pot locations.

Contracts will be awarded to the highest bidder for each Lot. In the event of a bidding tie, the contract will be awarded via random drawing. All costs associated with the test fishery are assumed by the successful bidder. Vessel owners may bid on more than one Lot. Log sheets and daily call-ins are required; all requested information must be reported for each pot location. Vessels must accommodate ADF&G observers upon request and CoVid-19 testing with negative results will be required for both observer and vessel crew. Adequate notice must be provided before vessel departure to allow for observer deployment.

All Tanner crab will be landed on the ADF&G Test Fishery CFEC permit card and any Tanner crab harvest above the maximum 5,000 lb per Lot will be reported as overage on the ADF&G fish ticket; full Tanner crab exvessel value will be paid for any overage amount to the State of Alaska.

Vessels may only deliver Tanner crab from one Lot during a PWS Tanner crab Test Fishery trip. Vessels may participate in both the PWS Tanner crab Test Fishery and the PWS Tanner crab commercial fishery; however, mixed deliveries are not permitted, and vessels may not haul gear from both fisheries during the same trip. All Tanner crab harvested during the PWS Test Fishery must be offloaded before hauling gear in the commercial fishery; and conversely, vessels must offload all Tanner crab from the commercial fishery before hauling gear in the PWS Test Fishery. Vessels participating in both the PWS Test Fishery and commercial fishery may not operate more than the maximum 25 allowable pots at any time - this includes all pots combined, both in the water and on the vessel. Participants in the PWS Test Fishery must check in with ADF&G before fishing, give prior notice of landing, and check out before fishing in the PWS commercial fishery.

### ***COVID-19***

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is Essential and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishers should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.



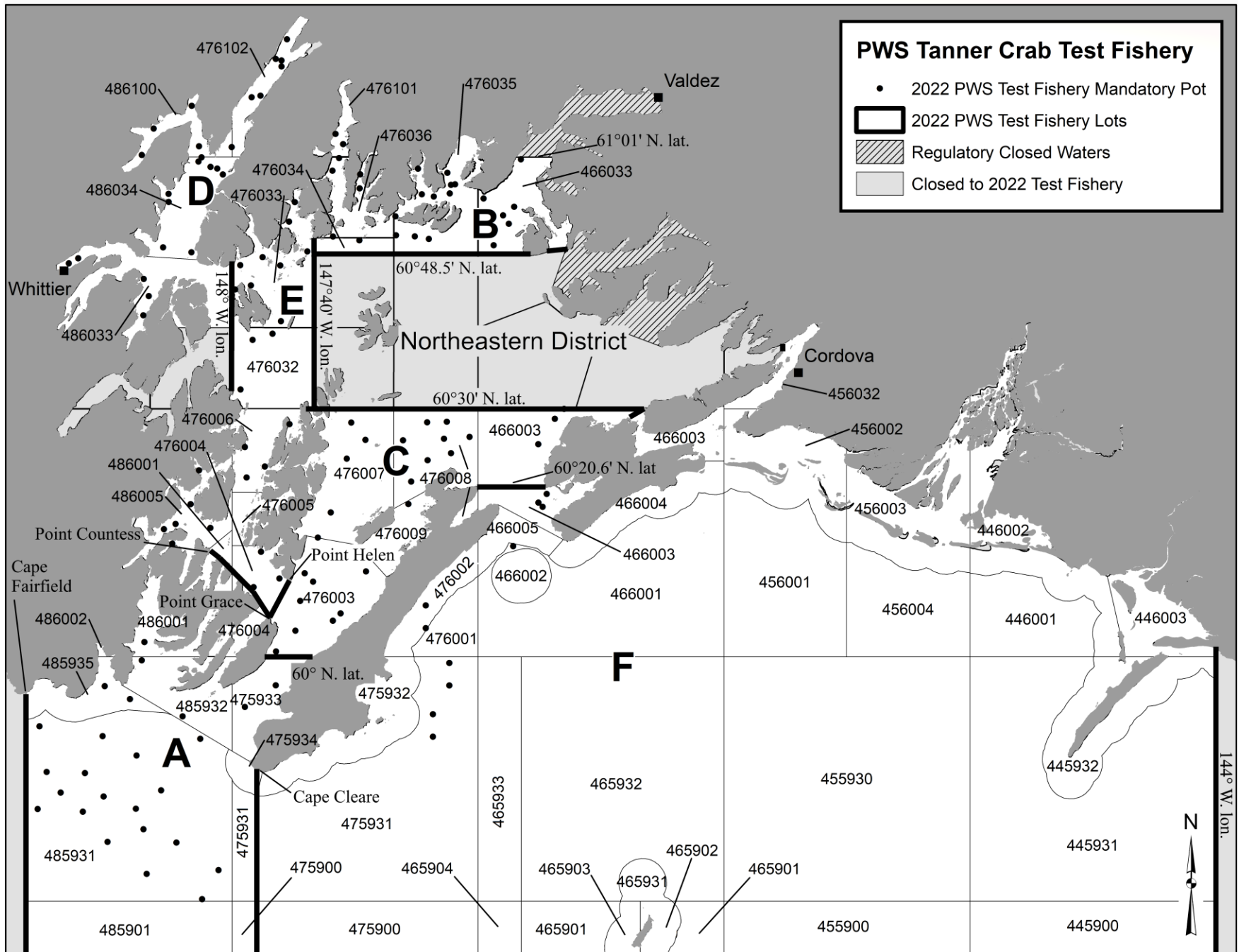


Figure 1.—Prince William Sound Area Tanner crab Test Fishery Lots (A-F) with statistical areas and mandatory pot locations for 2022.