

PROPOSAL 248 – 5 AAC 65.010. Fishing seasons for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Repeal regulations that prohibit sport fishing for king or Tanner crab in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area 14 days before and after a commercial king or Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 65.010(g) is repealed:

(g) **Repealed** / /**2017** [FROM JULY 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 10, A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE TANNER CRAB IN WATERS 25 FATHOMS OR MORE IN DEPTH FROM 14 DAYS BEFORE AND 14 DAYS AFTER A COMMERCIAL RED KING CRAB OR TANNER CRAB FISHERY].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This provision in sport fishing regulations, which is intended to prevent preseason commercial fishery “prospecting” and also retention of sport-caught crab for sale following closure of the commercial fishery, is partially duplicated by current regulations addressing commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries (5 AAC 34.053; 5 AAC 35.053) which prohibit operators from participating in the sport fishery within 14 days of a commercial season. Other regulatory provisions for the commercial fishery which effectively discourage the illegal sale of sport-caught crab by commercial vessels require that operators deliver their entire catch to processors within as little as 24 hours and no later than 72 hours following closure of the season (5 AAC 34.641; 5 AAC 34.681; 5 AAC 34.941; 5 AAC 35.031; AAC 35.556).

Adoption of this proposal will help simplify sport fishing regulations and increase angling opportunity for king and Tanner crab by removing provisions which are largely duplicated in current regulations addressing the commercial king and Tanner Crab fisheries occurring within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-158)
