

**PROPOSAL 261 - 5 AAC 35.506. Area J registration.** Allow *C. opilio* Tanner crab bycatch retention up to five percent in the Bering Sea District *C. bairdi* Tanner crab fishery, east of 166° W. long., as follows:

5 AAC 35.506(j) is amended to read:

(j) In the Bering Sea District,

**(1) a vessel operator that is registered to fish for *C. bairdi* Tanner crab east of 166° W. long. may also retain *C. opilio* Tanner crab in an amount not to exceed five percent of the weight of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab on board the vessel and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket; and**

**(2)** a vessel operator that is registered to fish for *C. bairdi* Tanner crab west of 166° W. long. may also retain *C. opilio* Tanner crab in an amount not to exceed five percent of the weight of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab on board the vessel and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fishermen have been encountering *C. opilio* Tanner crab east of 166° W. long., but with no means to harvest those crab towards their individual fishing quota. Allowing some retention of this bycatch will reduce discard mortality.

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

(HQ-F16-166)

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