

PROPOSAL 195

5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy

Extend Tanner crab fishing season in exploratory areas, as follows:

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(b)(2) at the end of the initial period, the core areas will close to fishing, and the noncore and exploratory areas will remain open for an additional five days. After the noncore areas close to fishing, the exploratory areas will remain open for an additional twenty-eight days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2018 SE shellfish board of fish meeting the board created a new "exploratory area" for Tanner crab in the exclusive economic zone of Registration Area A that is open for an additional fourteen days after the non core areas close to fishing. There has at this time been no effort in the new exploratory area.

There are several factors that contribute to the lack of effort. The biggest one being adverse weather conditions on the ocean during the fishery (the Registration Area A Tanner fishery has been traditionally prosecuted in bays, inlets and canals. Most fishermen are not set up to safely fish in rough weather).

I would like the board to extend the fishing period of the exploratory area to twenty-eight days after the close of the noncore fishery. Allowing fishermen more flexibility to wait for safer weather, should they choose to fish in the exploratory area.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F20-068)
