

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 35.311. Commissioner's permits for Tanner crab in Registration Area E.

Repeal commissioner's permits for Tanner crab in the Eastern and Western Districts of Prince William Sound Area (PWS), as follows:

[(A) IN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS, MALE TANNER CRAB, FIVE INCHES OR GREATER IN CARAPACE WIDTH, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

(B) ONLY POT GEAR MAY BE USED AND NO MORE THAN 50 TANNER CRAB POTS MAY BE OPERATED FROM A VESSEL.

(C) THE PERMIT REQUIRED IN THIS SECTION

(1) MAY SPECIFY SEASON DATES;

(2) MAY SPECIFY AREAS OF FISHING OPERATIONS BY DISTRICT OR BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION;

(3) MAY REQUIRE AN ONBOARD OBSERVER DURING ALL OPERATIONS;

(4) SHALL REQUIRE MANDATORY COMPLETION OF LOG SHEETS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT; LOG SHEETS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION MUST

(A) INCLUDE THE DATE, THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF HARVEST BY LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE, THE NUMBER OF POTS FISHED, THE AVERAGE DEPTH OF EACH POT FISHED, AND THE TIME GEAR IS DEPLOYED AND REMOVED FROM THE WATER OF EACH SET;

(B) INCLUDE FOR THE TARGET AND EACH BYCATCH SPECIES THE NUMBER OF FISH RETAINED AND DISCARDED;

(C) BE UPDATED WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME ON THE DAY OF OPERATION;

(D) BE MADE AVAILABLE TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT UPON REQUEST;

(E) BE SUBMITTED WITH THE CORRESPONDING FISH TICKET AT THE TIME OF LANDING;

(5) MAY SET OTHER CONDITIONS THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES ARE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PURPOSES.

(D) A PERSON MAY NOT MAKE A FALSE ENTRY IN THE LOG SHEETS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

(E) REGISTRATION AREA E IS A SUPEREXCLUSIVE REGISTRATION AREA FOR TANNER CRAB; AN OPERATOR OF A TANNER CRAB VESSEL VALIDLY REGISTERED FOR A SUPEREXCLUSIVE REGISTRATION AREA MAY NOT OPERATE ANY OTHER TANNER CRAB VESSEL REGISTERED FOR ANY OTHER SUPEREXCLUSIVE REGISTRATION AREA IN THE SAME REGISTRATION YEAR AS ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 35.020(H).] **Repealed.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department is proposing new district definitions and a new harvest strategy at this meeting. This proposed harvest strategy includes the areas that cover the current Eastern and Western Districts in PWS; however, districts will be renamed and redefined as proposed with different boundaries. If the proposal redefining the districts is passed, the Eastern and Western districts will not exist in regulation and therefore will make this regulation invalid. After March 2020, the department will have prosecuted the Commissioner's

Permit commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Eastern and Western districts for three years. The department is using the information from this fishery to develop the updated harvest strategy; this strategy includes these areas (with new district names).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-140)
