

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**EASTERN ALEUTIAN DISTRICT TANNER CRAB FISHERY OPENS JANUARY 15
POT LIMIT ANNOUNCED**

The Eastern Aleutian District (EAD) commercial Tanner crab season will open at noon January 15, 2016 in the Makushin/Skan Bay Section with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 35,000 pounds. The remainder of the EAD will remain closed for the 2016 season.

Three vessels preseason registered by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. on December 24, 2015. Based on the number of vessels preseason registered, the pot limit is 50 Tanner crab pots per vessel. Buoy tags are required for the fishery and will be sold at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office in Dutch Harbor beginning December 31, 2015. Buoy tags are \$2.00 each.

Vessel registration, as well as tank and gear inspection, will begin at noon January 14, 2016 in Dutch Harbor. A 2016 T090 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit card is required at the time of registration. In addition, Tanner crab pots onboard the vessel and in wet storage must be in compliance with gear regulations contained in 5 AAC 35.050(2), 5 AAC 35.525(b)(1)(A), and 5 AAC 39.145 (1) or (2), at the time of vessel registration.

Tanner crab pots may only be operated from 8:00 a.m. to 5:59 p.m. daily; however, pots set prior to 6:00 p.m. may soak overnight until the next daily fishing period. Daily catch reporting from all participants is mandatory; fishermen will be informed of inseason catch reporting requirements at the time of registration.

The season will close when the GHL is reached or prior to achieving the GHL if preseason expectations of fishery performance are not met. Regardless, the season will not extend past noon March 31.

For further information contact ADF&G Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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