

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Kodiak Office
351 Research Court
Kodiak, Alaska 99615



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

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Contact:

Nathaniel Nichols, Area Management Biologist

(907) 486-1840

2021 Commercial Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed analysis of 2020 Tanner crab survey results from the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts. Commercial Tanner crab fisheries in these districts may occur when the estimated abundance of mature male Tanner crab meets or exceeds abundance thresholds and minimum guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established in regulation (5 AAC 35.507. *Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts C. bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategies*).

Kodiak District: Mature male abundance thresholds are established for six sections in the Kodiak District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(1)(A–F)). A minimum of two sections must meet or exceed established minimum GHLs before a commercial fishery may open. In sections that meet or exceed the abundance thresholds, abundance must also be sufficient to provide for a GHL of at least 100,000 pounds per section and at least 400,000 pounds total for the entire district. Based on 2020 survey results, Southeast and Southwest sections exceeded thresholds necessary for a 2021 commercial Tanner crab season; however, **the Kodiak District will remain closed for the 2021 season** due to the high exploitation rate on legal males needed to achieve the 400,000-pound district minimum GHL and the potential for high bycatch mortality on sublegal male crab that may recruit to legal size in the next 1–2 years.

Chignik District: A single mature male abundance threshold is established for the Chignik District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(2)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHL of 200,000 pounds before a commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur in the district. Based on 2020 survey results, Chignik District exceeded the abundance threshold but was below the minimum GHL threshold; therefore, **the Chignik District will remain closed for the 2021 commercial Tanner crab season.**

South Peninsula District: Mature male abundance thresholds are established for two sections (Eastern and Western) in the South Peninsula District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(3)(A and B)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHL of 200,000 pounds before either section may open to commercial fishing. Based on 2020 survey results, Eastern section was below both thresholds and Western Section exceeded the abundance threshold but was below the minimum GHL threshold; therefore, **the South Peninsula District will remain closed for the 2021 commercial Tanner crab season.**

For additional information on Tanner crab harvest strategies or survey results, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

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