



## 2011 Chignik District Tanner Crab Fishery Information.



### General

- ♦ The fishery will open at 12:00 noon on Saturday, January 15, 2011.
- ♦ The Chignik District Tanner crab fishery is a superexclusive registration fishery
- ♦ Only legal-size (5.5 inches carapace width (CW)) male Tanner crabs can be retained.
- ♦ Only vessels 58 feet overall length or less may participate in the Chignik District fishery.
- ♦ Chignik District **guideline harvest level (GHL) = 600,000 pounds.**
- ♦ The waters of Castle Bay west of 158° 14.42' W. Long. will be **closed** to fishing during the 2011 fishery.
- ♦ Pot limits for 2011 fishery will be **30** aggregate pots based on total district GHL. Buoy tags are required and will be available in the Kodiak ADF&G office beginning December 14. They will also be available in Sand Point and Chignik Bay around January 10. Tags are available at no cost. Participants must hold a valid 2011 Chignik Tanner crab permit card to obtain buoy tags (T09L).
- ♦ Gear may only be operated daily from **08:00 AM to 5:59 PM (10 hours)**. From 6:00 PM to 07:59 AM gear cannot be set or retrieved, however it can be left in the water to soak.
- ♦ The fishery will be managed inseason from volunteer catch reporting by the fleet. ADF&G will take reports daily by telephone, FAX, e-mail, and dispatch. The ADF&G Matrix dispatch number is **7894**.
- ♦ Closure announcements may occur with **little** advance notice; inshore and offshore waters of the district will be managed separately based on 2010 trawl survey abundance.

### Storage/Gear operation

- ♦ Pots may be stored in waters shallower than 25 fathoms with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured open (or not secured closed for cone or pyramid pots) before the commercial fishery opens and 7 days after the closure of the commercial fishery. Registered vessels may not have more than an aggregate of 30 pots in the Chignik District either onboard the vessel, fishing, or in wet storage (this includes stored groundfish pots).
- ♦ No person may operate commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Chignik District. Placing tagged gear into shallow water storage is permitted during this 14-day stand down period; *however*, vessels may not retrieve gear to place buoy tags on gear during this 14-day period.
- ♦ Tank inspection may be required for wet-tanked vessels. ADF&G will announce tank inspection requirements by news release prior to 12:00 noon on January 14, 2011.
- ♦ All pot gear onboard a vessel and in wet storage must be tagged at the time of the fishery opening.
- ♦ Gear **may not be** retrieved from wet storage during the 24-hour period after tank inspection but before the fishery opening. Gear may only be retrieved from wet storage **AFTER** the fishery has opened.

### Gear information

- ♦ At least one buoy attached to each pot must be clearly marked with the five digit number that appears on the permanent ADF&G vessel plate (including leading zeros as needed). No additional number(s) may appear on the buoy that contains the vessel ADF&G number (symbols and letters are permitted).
- ♦ Tanner crab pots with tunnel eye openings on the vertical plane of the pot may not have tunnel eye openings greater than five inches (13 cm) in height.
- ♦ All gear must contain the following escape mechanisms:
  - 1/3 of one vertical surface must be composed of not less than 7 ¼ inch stretched mesh webbing **or** have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than five inches inside diameter. Rings must be installed on the vertical plane of the pot.
  - Pots must contain a biodegradable escape mechanism that is a minimum of 18-inches in length, within six inches of the bottom, and must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100% cotton twine no larger than 30 thread count.

Contact ADF&G in Kodiak at 907-486-1840 for additional information.