

# COOK INLET AND KACHEMAK BAY SALT WATERS

## General Regulations - Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay

**Inclusive waters:** Salt waters of Cook Inlet west of Gore Point and north of Cape Douglas, including Kachemak Bay and the Barren Islands.

**The Fishing Season for all species is open year-round unless otherwise noted below.**

### **KING SALMON**

- **Summer Fisheries (April 1–August 31):**
  - **North of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40' N):**
    - 1 per day, 1 in possession (of any size).
    - See regulations for Special King Salmon Management Area on page 75.
  - **South of the latitude of Bluff Point (59°40'N):**
    - 2 per day, 2 in possession (of any size).
  - 20 inches or longer:
  - There is a combined annual limit of 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer from the waters of the following areas: Cook Inlet Salt Waters, West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, and Kenai Peninsula.
  - If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest. See page 5 for recording instructions.
  - A king salmon 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
- **Winter Fishery (September 1–March 31):**
  - **All Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay salt waters:**
    - 2 per day, 2 in possession (of any size).
    - No annual limit in effect; recording of king salmon harvest is not required during this timeframe.

### **OTHER SALMON**

- 6 per day, 6 in possession, only 3 per day, 3 in possession may be coho (silver) salmon.
- Pink salmon taken in a sport fishery may be used as bait, but are part of your bag limit.

### **RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT**

- **No retention.** All rainbow/steelhead trout must be released immediately.

### **DOLLY VARDEN**

- 5 per day, 5 in possession.

### **LINGCOD**

- **July 1–December 31:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, must be at least 35 inches long with head attached or 28 inches from tip of tail to front of dorsal fin with head removed.

### **ROCKFISH**

- 5 per day, 10 in possession, only 1 per day, 2 in possession may be nonpelagic (see chart on page 92).

### **HALIBUT**

**Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty. See page 7 for federal contact information.**

- **Season:** February 1–December 31.
- **Unguided anglers:** 2 per day, 4 in possession.
- **Consult federal regulations for the following:**
  - 1) Bag, possession and size limits and other regulations for guided (charter) anglers.
- **Filleting requirements for fish cleaned at sea:** No person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, Pacific halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached.

### **SPINY DOGFISH**

- 5 per day, 5 in possession.

### **SHARKS (EXCEPT SPINY DOGFISH)**

- 1 per day, 1 in possession.
- There is an annual limit of 2 sharks. These harvested fish must be recorded. See page 5 for recording instructions.

### **OTHER FINFISH**

- No limit.

### **SHELLFISH**

- See page 76.

## Methods and Means - Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay

### **Underwater spear:**

- In salt water, spears and spearguns may be used to take fish, subject to applicable seasons and bag limits, by persons who are completely submerged, provided the spear or speargun is not tipped with an explosive charge.

### **Sport fishing gear for herring and smelt (hooligan):**

- In salt water, herring and smelt may be taken with the use of 15 or fewer unbaited, single or multiple hooks attached to a single line.

### **Gaffs:**

- A gaff may not be used to puncture any fish intended or required to be released.

### **Attention salt water anglers:**

As of January 1, 2020, anglers must carry a deepwater release device onboard their vessel when sport fishing in salt water and will be required to use the device to release rockfish that are not harvested at depth of capture or 100 feet.

## Methods and Means -

### Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay (continued)

#### Snagging:

- Snagging is prohibited. You may not intentionally snag or attempt to snag any species of fish:
  - Year-round in Cook Inlet north of a line extending west from Bluff Point. See map.
  - Year-round in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (see Special Regulations).
- **Snagging is allowed:**
  - Year-round in Cook Inlet south of a line extending west from the latitude of Bluff Point (except for the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon).

### Special Regulations - Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay

**Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Area (The Fishing Hole)**—Along the east side of the Homer Spit, from the Homer City Dock near the entrance of the Homer Boat Harbor to ADF&G markers about 200 yards northwest of the entrance to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Area (including the Homer Boat Harbor and the fishing lagoon) to a distance of 300 feet from shore:

- King salmon:
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
  - From April 1–August 31, king salmon 20 inches or longer must be recorded (see page 5).
- Other salmon (including coho salmon) in combination:
  - 6 per day, 6 in possession.
- **Snagging is not permitted except by emergency order.**
- Weights, bobbers or any flotation device (including pieces of foam or marshmallows) following a hook or hooks may not be used when these waters are closed to snagging.

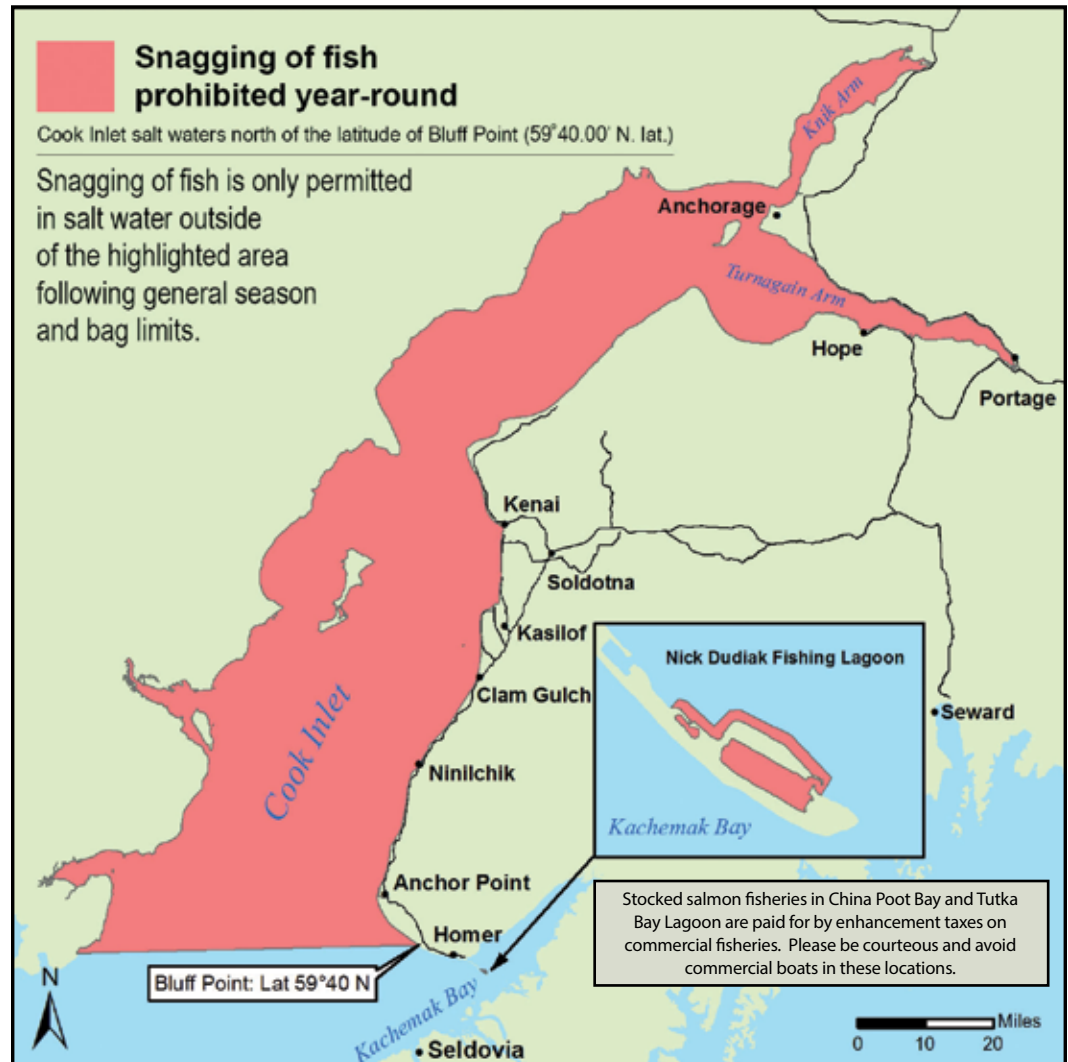


#### Tutka Bay Lagoon:

- The marine waters of Tutka Bay Lagoon within 100 yards of the Tutka Bay Lagoon hatchery net pens are closed year-round to sport fishing for any species.

**Homer Barge Basin**—located on the Homer Spit:

- Closed year-round to all fishing.



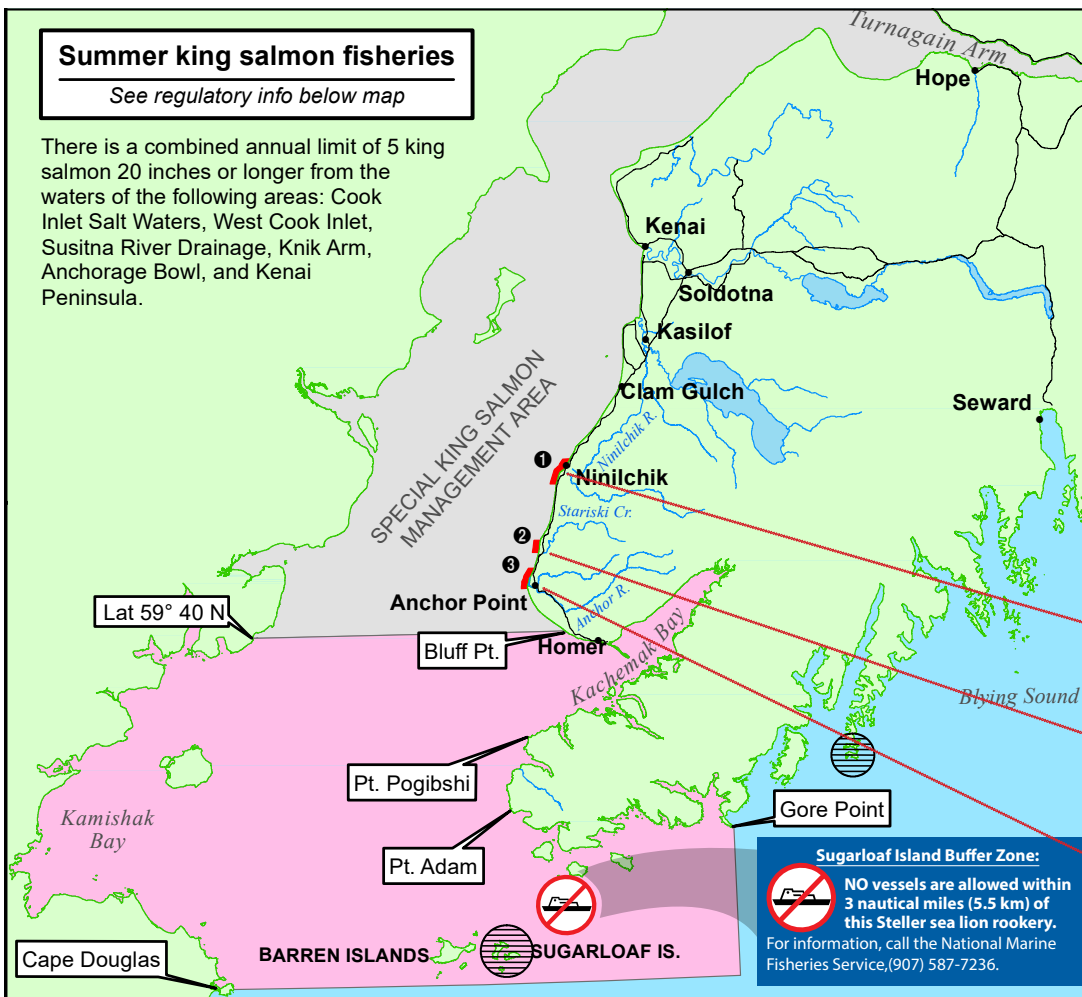
### Nick Dudiak Lagoon Youth-Only King and Coho Salmon Fisheries:

- Youth Fishery Zones established for persons 15 years of age or younger. The first Saturday in June (June 5, 2021) and August (August 7, 2021).

## Summer king salmon fisheries


See regulatory info below map

There is a combined annual limit of 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer from the waters of the following areas: Cook Inlet Salt Waters, West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, and Kenai Peninsula.





## REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL KING SALMON MANAGEMENT AREA (APRIL 1 - AUGUST 31)

**Inclusive waters:** All salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point.

- **April 1–August 31:** The following regulations apply:
  - Anglers may not continue fishing for king salmon within the Special King Salmon Management Area after harvesting a king salmon 20 inches or longer.
  - Guides may not sport fish while a client is present or within the guide's control or responsibility, unless the guide is providing assistance to a client with a disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  -  April 1–July 15: The following salt water areas **1**, **2** and **3** surrounding stream mouths are Conservation Zones and are **closed to all fishing**.
    - 1** About 1 mile north of the Ninilchik River ( $60^{\circ} 03.99' N$ ) to ADF&G markers 2 miles south of Deep Creek ( $60^{\circ} 00.68' N$ ), and within 1 mile of shore; **except conservation zone 1 is open May 29–31, June 5–7, and June 12–14 to fishing from shore.**
    - 2** from the latitude of an ADF&G marker located 1 mile north of Stariski Creek ( $59^{\circ} 54.37' N$ ) to the latitude of an ADF&G marker located 1 mile south of Stariski Creek ( $59^{\circ} 52.98' N$ ), and within 1 mile of shore; and
    - 3** from the latitude of ADF&G markers 2 miles north of the Anchor River ( $59^{\circ} 48.92' N$ ) to the latitude of the Anchor Point Light ( $59^{\circ} 46.14' N$ ) about 1 3/4 miles south of the Anchor River, and within 1 mile of shore.

### **April 1 - August 31: Summer King Salmon Fishery**

• **King salmon limits April 1–August 31:**

-  North of Bluff Point  $59^{\circ} 40' N$  to  $60^{\circ} 03.99' N$  (Special King Salmon Management Area)  
1 per day, 1 in possession any size. *Note: See Special Regulations at right.*
-  South of Bluff Point ( $59^{\circ} 40' N$ ) to  $60^{\circ} 03.99' N$ : 2 per day, 2 in possession (any size).

### **September 1 - March 31: Winter King Salmon Fishery**

- Inclusive waters: ALL of Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay salt waters.
- **King salmon September 1–March 31:**
  - 2 per day, 2 in possession (any size).
  - No annual limit in effect. Harvest of king salmon does not need to be recorded in this area September 1–March 31.

## Tanner Crab Fishery

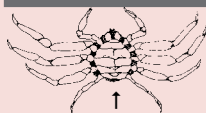
Fisheries are announced prior to the opening of the season in a Press Release issued by ADF&G. Sign up to receive Press Releases at: [www.wefishak.alaska.gov](http://www.wefishak.alaska.gov)

### Tanner Crab - Limited Fishery

#### TANNER CRAB LIMITED FISHERY

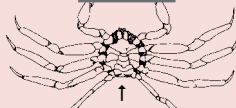
- Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast waters:
  - A permit is required and is available online at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/store](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store).
  - Season: October 1 - February 28:
    - Male crabs only, 4½ inch minimum: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
    - May operate 1 pot or one ring net per vessel.

Female - NO HARVEST ALLOWED



Wide abdominal flap covers most of underside (females are usually smaller than legal size)

Male



Narrow abdominal flap



Width measurement of Tanner crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, including spines.

There is an annual limit of 20 crabs per person.



Tanner crab from Kachemak Bay.

### China Poot and Peterson Bay (Kachemak Bay):

- Intertidal beaches between ADF&G markers along Shipwreck Cove and around Otter Rock:
  - **Closed to the harvest of all shellfish.**

### China Poot and Peterson Bay Shellfish Closures



### DUNGENESS CRAB

- Season: **Closed.**

### KING CRAB

- Season: **Closed.**

### LITTLENECK AND BUTTER CLAMS

- 80 per day, 80 in possession in combination.
  - Littleneck clams: Must be 1½ inches or wider.
  - Butter clams: Must be 2½ inches or wider.

### RAZOR CLAMS

- East side Cook Inlet beaches from the mouth of the Kenai River south to the tip of the Homer Spit:
  - **Closed to all clamming.** Check for Emergency Orders at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)
- Rest of Cook Inlet: No limit.
- All razor clams dug must be retained.

### SHRIMP

- Season: **Closed.**

### OTHER SHELLFISH

- No limit.

### BUTTER CLAM



Minimum 2½ inches across the widest part of the shell for Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast harvest requirement. The butter clam shell is thick and white. It has heavy concentric growth rings, but no vertical ridges. The shell's inner edge is smooth. Butter clams are 3 to 5 inches long.

### PACIFIC LITTleneck CLAM



Minimum 1½ inches across the widest part of the shell for Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast harvest requirement. Littleneck clam shells have concentric growth rings and distinct vertical ridges. The inner edge is ridged like the edge of a quarter. Littleneck clams are about 2 inches long.