

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
January 13, 2018

**Finding in Support of Onboard Observer Requirement in the Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab fishery**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable for the conservation and development of fishery resources of the state, and has the authority to require, in a fishery, observers on board fishing vessels. Under AS 16.05.251(a)(13), when the board adopts a regulation requiring on-board observers in a fishery it must make a written determination that an on-board observer program:

- a. is the only practical data-gathering or enforcement mechanism for that fishery;
- b. will not unduly disrupt the fishery;
- c. can be conducted at a reasonable cost; and
- d. can be coordinated with observer programs of other agencies, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries finds that in the Southeast Alaska king and Tanner crab fisheries, a requirement for on-board observers is warranted and reasonably necessary for the conservation and development of fishery resources.

The board does not find any other practical alternatives for gathering data in this fishery that would provide all of the information needed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department).

The board did not receive any testimony from the public that requiring on-board observers would disrupt this fishery, and the fishery has not occurred in recent years.

The observer program will be conducted at little or no cost to fishing operations because the observers will be department personnel.

The program can be coordinated with other agencies as necessary.