

PROPOSAL 270

5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.

Amend pot limits for Kodiak District Tanner crab, as follows:

(c) The following pot limits are in effect in Registration Area J:

(1) in the Kodiak District, when the guideline harvest level for *C. bairdi* Tanner crab is

(A) less than [2,000,000] **2,500,000** pounds, an aggregate of no more than 20 pots may be operated from a validly registered Tanner crab vessel;

(B) at least [2,000,000] **2,500,000** pounds but less than [4,000,000] **5,000,000** pounds, an aggregate of no more than 30 pots may be operated from a validly registered Tanner crab vessel;

(C) at least 5,000,000 pounds [4,000,000 POUNDS BUT LESS THAN 5,000,000 POUNDS,] an aggregate of no more than 40 pots may be operated from a validly registered Tanner crab vessel;

[(D) AT LEAST 5,000,000 POUNDS, AN AGGREGATE OF NO MORE THAN 60 POTS MAY BE OPERATED FROM A VALIDLY REGISTERED TANNER CRAB VESSEL;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current Kodiak tanner crab regulations were developed in approximately 1998 after the fishery had been closed for a decade. A number of new concepts were developed that enabled the fishery to reopen. After 20 additional years of experience, some of the regulations put in place in 1998 are no longer needed. One such suite of regulations is the pot limit designations in 5 AAC 35.525(c). The current pot limits reflect a far different fishery from what is in place today. The fleet of today has successfully adapted to a “daylight only” fishery and a 20 pot per vessel limit. The fleet has also been conservatively managed and waited patiently for the tanner crab biomass to improve. The fleet is therefore concerned that if the Kodiak tanner crab biomass improves, current pot limit regulations would allow and, perhaps, encourage vessels that haven’t participated in the fishery for the past 20 years to come in and disadvantage the local fleet that has worked so hard to maintain the fishery and the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Old Harbor Fisheries Committee/Duncan Fields

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