

Proposal #190 – Red King Crab Management Plan

PERMIT INFORMATION RESIDENCY

The red king crab fishery is made up of 95% Alaska residents. The permit breakdown is as follows:

PERMIT	PERMIT DESCRIPTION	RESIDENT Transferable/Interim	NON RESIDENT
K19A	Red & Blue	7/0	
K29A	Red, Blue & Golden	6/0	
K49A	Red, Blue & Tanner	14/2	
K69A	Red, Blue, Tanner & Golden	26/1	3
TOTAL		56	3

ECONOMIC INFORMATION:

Fishery has only occurred 2 years in the last 16 years. Assuming a 91,000 lb fishery at \$25.00 a pound minimum (Golden King Crab this winter was going for \$18.00lb and red king crab is worth more) the fishery would be worth \$6,825,000.00 for one year/over the three-year time period up to \$7,000,000.00 into the Southeast Communities is being lost. This is 95% resident and local communities that miss this economic opportunity.

CFEC OPTIMIZATION STUDY:

The alternative is if you can get CFEC to undertake an optimum number study all this provides is a number, you can't ask permit holders who are earning no money from their permit 88% of the time (14 out of 16 years no fishery) to fund a buyback so what does that provide. Also, a CFEC optimum number study only looks at the economics of the fishery. For example, the Chatham sablefish fishery before it went to an equal quota share fishery had an optimum number study done, ADFG for management reasons asked for a smaller optimum number study but CFEC determined a higher optimum number based on economics which is their mandate. If a fishery including an equal share fishery became too exclusive based on economics, more permits would be issued into the fishery.

Alaska Board of Fisheries
2002-214-FB

**Charge to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
and Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries requests the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force work together to develop a draft Southeast Alaska Tanner Crab Management Plan and an associated suite of regulations for consideration by the board during the next Statewide King and Tanner Crab Board of Fisheries meeting. We understand that the department and the task force have discussed these issues during the March 2002 board meeting and have found agreement upon the current problems and short-term goals, as well as a vision statement for the fishery. Based upon these agreements, the board believes that a management plan and regulatory framework can be developed that will best achieve the goals and visions set out here. Additional time will also allow the department, in consultation with industry, to refine the Tanner crab stock assessment program and develop a longer time series that will allow quantitative assessment of the stock. Because the department is uncertain about the effects of the measures contained in Proposals 481 and 482A, the board believes the best course of action is for the department and industry to work together under guidelines set by the Board of Fisheries. While this plan is developed, the department will continue to manage the fishery in a conservative manner.

Following is an outline of the current fishery problems and a vision for the sustainable management of the Southeast Alaska Tanner crab fishery:

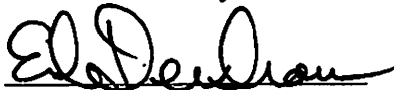
A management plan and associated regulations should address the following problems and goals:

- 1) Reduce fishing pressure in "core areas";
- 2) Reduce handling of females and sublegal males;
- 3) Develop the time and tools to allow for inseason management;
- 4) Develop an abundance based management plan with preseason guideline harvest levels (GHLs);
- 5) Continue a conservative management strategy until a new management plan is in place;
- 6) Maintain the concurrent season with golden king crab;
- 7) Continue and develop the stock assessment program in consultation with industry and communicate the goals and protocols of this program with the fleet.

The management plan and associated regulations should be compatible with a vision for the sustainable management of the Southeast Alaska Tanner crab fishery, outlined as follows:

- 1) Abundance based management by area with preseason GHLs, incorporating information about all stock segments;
- 2) Survey and stock assessment protocols in place that are understood by stakeholders;
- 3) Inseason management targeting specific area GHLs;
- 4) Follow the policies set out in the board's King and Tanner Crab Policy.

ADOPTED: March 21, 2002
Anchorage, Alaska


Ed Dersham, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

VOTE: 6-0-1


**Alaska Board of Fisheries
2002-213-FB**

**Findings Regarding Revised Red King Crab Threshold Level for Southeastern Alaska Area
(Area A)**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries discussed Proposal 475 submitted by the Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force to change the minimum threshold level required to open the Southeast Alaska commercial red king crab fishery from the current 300,000 pound level. The Department of Fish and Game stated that the commercial fishery could be successfully managed to target a guideline harvest level of 200,000 pounds or greater, given mandatory catch and effort reporting requirements contained in Proposal 471.

The board finds that mandatory catch reporting has not previously been in place for the Southeast Alaska red king crab fishery and the ability of the department to target lower thresholds relies heavily upon the new management tool. Based upon this finding the board believes it is prudent to set a three-year sunset clause for a new threshold. The board therefore amended the proposal to specify a new threshold level of 200,000 pounds with a three-year sunset clause. Over this three-year period, the department's ability to accurately target guideline harvest levels using mandatory reporting requirements will be evaluated. If a proposal is submitted by either the department or the Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force to establish a minimum threshold level, the board will reassess this threshold level at the next Statewide King and Tanner Crab board meeting. If a proposal to set a minimum threshold level for the Southeast red king crab fishery is not passed following the sunset clause, the threshold level will return to 300,000 pounds.

ADOPTED: March 19, 2002
Anchorage, Alaska


Ed Dersham, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

VOTE: 6-0-1

Alaska Board of Fisheries
2002-214-FB

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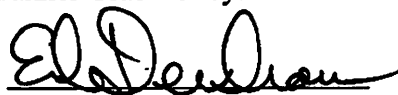
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