

PROPOSAL 265

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Establish season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for Dungeness crab in Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay, as follows:

Dungeness Crab: October 1 – February 28; bag and possession limit of 1 male crab, annual limit of 5 male crab; minimum size of six and one-half inches; no more than 1 pot or ring net per vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dungeness sport fishery has been closed many years without any recent surveys done in many years. Many of us that fish the Tanners out of Kachemak Bay have been seeing good numbers of Dungeness in our pots as well. A small opening for Dungeness crab could give people another harvest opportunity while also giving fish and game some insight on the stock of the fishery. This opening would mirror the Limited Tanner Crab opening for Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast. It could be its own sport permit or just added to the Tanner Crab permit. This would make enforcement and ease of implementation quite simple. The Tanner crab harvest records since 2017 have been around 6k to 8k crabs. Predicting similar effort in the Dungeness fishery you could expect harvest levels to be around 1500 to 2000 crab.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

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