

## **PROPOSAL 282**

### **5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.**

Amend escape mechanism requirements for Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab gear., as follows:

**Bolded language is additive.**

## **PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.** Amend lawful gear for Tanner crab in Kodiak District of Registration Area J, as follows:

(a) Tanner crab may be taken only with Tanner crab pots. Tanner crab taken by other means must be returned to the water without further harm.

(b) The following Tanner crab pot requirements are in effect in Registration Area J:

(1) to permit the escapement of undersize *C. bairdi* Tanner crab, pots used to take *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in

(A) Registration Area J, except the **Kodiak and Bering Sea Districts**, must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and three-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than five inches inside diameter installed on the vertical surface of the pot;

(B) the Bering Sea District, must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and one-half inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than four and one-half inches inside diameter installed in a manner on the vertical surface of the pot so that the bottom of a ring is no higher on the vertical surface than the first full mesh from the bottom of the pot; [AND]

**(C) the Kodiak District, rectangular and pyramid pots must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and three-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing; cone pots must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and three-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than eight circular escape rings of no less than five inches inside diameter installed on the vertical surface of the pot.**

Original Language:

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(B) the Bering Sea District, must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and one-half inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than four and one-half inches inside diameter installed in a manner on the vertical surface of the pot so that the bottom of a ring is no higher on the vertical surface than the first full mesh from the bottom of the pot; and

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Handling of sublegal and female tanner crab in the Kodiak District. This proposal would allow additional escapement of both sublegal and female of tanner crabs and reduce mortality associated with sorting. The new language would improve conservation.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Was discussed with F&G staff and other Kodiak Area Tanner Crab fishermen

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Kavanaugh

(EF-F24-008)

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