

## **PROPOSAL 284**

### **5 AAC 35.5XX. New section.**

Allow catcher vessels to operate as tenders during the Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

If adopted, I recommend the board utilize the same regulatory language used to amend the Kodiak Area Dungeness fishery in recent years. Substitute language as follows:

### **5 AAC 35.5XX. Tenders for Tanner crab in the Kodiak District**

**Notwithstanding 5 AAC 35.033(a), in the Kodiak District, a vessel registered to fish for Tanner crab may tender Tanner crab from other registered Tanner crab vessels. A tender operator must be an authorized agent of a processor. Before using a vessel as a tender under this section, the tender operator shall register as a tender with the department at the department office in Kodiak. A tender operator shall complete an ADF&G fish ticket at the first point of delivery from the catcher vessel.**

Below are three sections of regulation for reference:

1. 32.033 is a general reg that says you *can't* fish and tender Dungeness at the same time.
2. 32.460 is an Area J reg that says, despite what 32.033 says, you *can* fish and tender Dungeness in the Kodiak District
3. 35.033 is a general reg that says you *can't* fish and tender Tanners at the same time. This is the reg your new language needs to reference to carve out an exemption in the Kodiak District similar to what's on the books for Dungeness.
4. Below is the language used in the Dungeness fishery. *[Note from Boards Support: the author of this proposal attempted to submit a photo to accompany this proposal, however we do not publish photos in the proposal book]*

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For the Kodiak area Tanner crab fishery, I would like to see Kodiak area Tanner crab catcher vessels be allowed to also be a tender vessel for Kodiak Tanner crab during and after the fishery. This practice is already being utilized in the Kodiak Dungeness fishery proving it can work and provide a benefit to the fisherman. A catcher vessel could tender crab from another vessel during the Tanner fishery and after the closure of a section. This change would be valuable to the fishery and permit holders in a variety of ways. It would allow smaller vessels a chance to harvest more crab with the potential to offload crab to a larger participating catcher vessel. It would also allow Kodiak tanner crab fisherman greater opportunity to bring the crab to another port for an opportunity at higher ex-vessel prices and likely decrease the offload wait times we have experienced in recent years. This reduced wait time would lessen the likelihood of deadloss related to vessels holding the crab too long. This change would also likely decrease the cost of tender related fees recently experienced in the fishery and allow other catcher vessels in the fleet to benefit through the shared value, overall allowing more money to stay with participating permit holders and vessels.

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

I spoke with participating fisherman and permit holders in the Kodiak Area tanner fishery and department staff assisted with developing the substitute regulatory language.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin Abena

(EF-F24-036)

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