

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 77.557. Personal use king crab fishery, 5 AAC 77. 558. Personal use Tanner crab fishery, and 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Open a sport king crab fishery and liberalize the personal use king and Tanner crab fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

A person may fish for Tanner and Golden King Crab from April 15-September 15. People opting to fish during this season are ineligible to fish during the season from October 1-March 31. During this season, from April 15-September 15 a vessel may only have two pots of any kind on board. These can be two shrimp pots, two crab pots, or one crab and one shrimp pot. A crab pot can not be placed on the same long line as a shrimp pot. Additionally, only one permit can be fished from a vessel at a given time.

There will be an annual limit of:

50 male Tanner Crab

2 male Golden King Crab

And a daily limit of 10 male Tanner Crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open an additional sport/personal use fishery for tanner and golden king crab in Prince William Sound from April 15-September 15. Currently a season is open from October 1-March 31 during the stormiest and coldest portion of the year. This severely limits the opportunity to participate in the fishery. Having an additional season corresponding to the sport/personal use shrimp fishery would provide more people the opportunity to fish for crab. If a season as proposed below is adopted it would have the effect of reducing the effort in the shrimp fishery with limited to no effect on the health of the crab populations. There has been a commercial fishery for Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound for a number of years now. There is no reason a more viable sport/personal use fishery can not be implemented.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Discussed with friends who boat in Prince William Sound.

PROPOSED BY: Brian West

(HQ-F24-056)
