

Tanner (3 proposals)

PROPOSAL 266

5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general restrictions.

Allow additional gear types in the personal use crab fishery, as follows:

crab may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless handlines, **CRAB LOOP TRAPS "SNARES", FOLDABLE CRAB NET**, or by hand; **A LINE ATTACHED TO A POLE OR ROD MAY BE USED TO REEL OR CAST CRAB GEAR.** [A LINE ATTACHED TO A POLE OR ROD MAY BE USED IN THE BERING SEA ONLY WHEN FISHING A LINE THROUGH THE ICE];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? "crab may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless handlines, or by hand; a line attached to a pole or rod may be used in the Bering Sea only when fishing a line through the ice;"

The restriction on gear types for crabbing is unnecessarily restrictive and eliminates ethical methods of take that are utilized in other states. Crab snares and foldable crab nets allow for the take of crabs without posing harm to crab populations or pose a significant risk of continued catch if gear is unrecoverable. Many Alaskans own a fishing rod, but not a boat. Widening the regulations would allow for increased access to crabbing as both a hobby and as a source of food.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I did not, hence the need for editing.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Taylor

(EF-F24-040)

PROPOSAL 267

5 AAC 35.408. Registration Area H Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Modify the noncommercial Tanner crab fishery thresholds, as follows:

5 AAC 35.408 is amended to read:

...

(d) The noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Cook Inlet Area will be managed as provided in **5 AAC 58.022(a)(11)(A)** [5 AAC 58.022(11)(A)] and 5 AAC 02.325(a) when the most recent [CONSECUTIVE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF] legal male stock abundance estimated from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is greater than or equal to 200,000 crab [AND THE ANNUAL ESTIMATE FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR IS AT LEAST 100,000 CRAB]. The harvest rate is not expected to exceed approximately 10 percent of legal male Tanner crab abundance managed under this section.

The noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Cook Inlet area will be managed as provided in **5 AAC 58.022(a)(11)(B)** [5 AAC 58.022(11)(B)] and 5 AAC 02.325(b) in the absence of a trawl survey, or if the most recent [CONSECUTIVE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF] legal male stock abundance estimated from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is less than 200,000 crab [OR THE ANNUAL ESTIMATE FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR IS BELOW 100,000 CRAB]. The harvest rate is not expected to exceed approximately 10 percent of legal male Tanner crab abundance managed under this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for the noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries require three years of trawl survey data to be used to open the standard noncommercial Tanner crab fishery. The Kachemak Bay trawl survey has not been conducted since 2019. This proposal would provide harvest opportunity directly following a single year of the trawl survey, given a legal male abundance estimate that exceeds the threshold. Only requiring one survey would provide the department with a more cost-effective approach to providing additional subsistence and sport harvest opportunity for Tanner crab.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-180)

PROPOSAL 268

5 AAC 58.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish.

Prohibit harvest of Tanner crab from a charter vessel, as follows:

Stop allowing commercial operators to include Tanner crab access as part of their service. No commercial charter or related commercial activity type will be allowed to transport persons for the purpose of harvesting Tanner crab in Kachemak Bay or Cook Inlet and their surrounding waters.

Add a new section: A person may not harvest Tanner Crab from a sport chartered vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I'm concerned about the excess pressure on tanner crab in Kachmak Bay and Cook Inlet due to Charters selling combo fishing trips while also including Tanner crab access. Unnecessary commercial pressure is being applied to this fishery because of this type of access. This crab fishery was closed for several years due to lack of mature crab and it seems unrealistic to encourage and allow access from commercial charter boats and any other commercial access providers. I would encourage you to limit all types of commercial access to this subsistence/sport Tanner crab fishery. It appears non-residents are increasingly participating in the fishery is likely due to charger provide access.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes I requested help from Fish and Game for assistance with the specifics of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Green (EF-F24-012)
