

Alaska Board of Fisheries
2002-214-FB

Charge to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
and Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force

The Alaska Board of Fisheries requests the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Southeast Alaska King and Tanner Crab Task Force work together to develop a draft Southeast Alaska Tanner Crab Management Plan and an associated suite of regulations for consideration by the board during the next Statewide King and Tanner Crab Board of Fisheries meeting. We understand that the department and the task force have discussed these issues during the March 2002 board meeting and have found agreement upon the current problems and short-term goals, as well as a vision statement for the fishery. Based upon these agreements, the board believes that a management plan and regulatory framework can be developed that will best achieve the goals and visions set out here. Additional time will also allow the department, in consultation with industry, to refine the Tanner crab stock assessment program and develop a longer time series that will allow quantitative assessment of the stock. Because the department is uncertain about the effects of the measures contained in Proposals 481 and 482A, the board believes the best course of action is for the department and industry to work together under guidelines set by the Board of Fisheries. While this plan is developed, the department will continue to manage the fishery in a conservative manner.

Following is an outline of the current fishery problems and a vision for the sustainable management of the Southeast Alaska Tanner crab fishery:

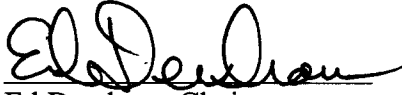
A management plan and associated regulations should address the following problems and goals:

- 1) Reduce fishing pressure in "core areas";
- 2) Reduce handling of females and sublegal males;
- 3) Develop the time and tools to allow for inseason management;
- 4) Develop an abundance based management plan with preseason guideline harvest levels (GHLs);
- 5) Continue a conservative management strategy until a new management plan is in place;
- 6) Maintain the concurrent season with golden king crab;
- 7) Continue and develop the stock assessment program in consultation with industry and communicate the goals and protocols of this program with the fleet.

The management plan and associated regulations should be compatible with a vision for the sustainable management of the Southeast Alaska Tanner crab fishery, outlined as follows:

- 1) Abundance based management by area with preseason GHLs, incorporating information about all stock segments;
- 2) Survey and stock assessment protocols in place that are understood by stakeholders;
- 3) Inseason management targeting specific area GHLs;
- 4) Follow the policies set out in the board's King and Tanner Crab Policy.

ADOPTED: March 21, 2002
Anchorage, Alaska


Ed Dersham, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

VOTE: 6-0-1