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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED REFERENCES TO THE TANNER CRAB GENUS CHIONOECETES:

SPECIES: C. bairdi (O. Fabricius)
C. opilio (Rathbun)
C. tanneri (Rathbun)
C. angulatus (Rathbun)
C. japonicus (Rathbun)

By:

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED REFERENCES OF THE TANNER CRAB GENUS CHIONOECETES:[1]

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INTRODUCTION

The Tanner crab is a member of the brachyuran crabs or true crabs. Garth (1958) has described the taxonomy as:

Class: Crustacea
Subclass: Mulacostraca
Order: Decapoda
Sub-order: Brachyura
Super-family: Oxyrhyncha
Family: Majidae
Sub-family: Oregoniinae
Genus: Chionoecetes

Common names associated with species of this genus include Tanner, Snow, Queen and in Japan Zuwai crab. The name "Tanner" is most commonly used in Alaska. Its origin is most likely related to Lt. Commander Z.L. Tanner, Commander of the Bureau of Fisheries steamer Albatross, whose explorations produced the early records of this genus. Snow crab is the official trade name for the commercial species.

The genus has a circum-arctic distribution, extending into the temperate waters on the east and west coasts of North America and Eurasia. C. japonicus is the only species of Chionoecetes not found in the Eastern Pacific. C. opilio has the widest geographic distribution. It occurs in the Sea of Japan and the Okhotsk Sea where it is classed as a sub-species C. opilio elongatus, north through the Bering Sea and into the Chukchi Sea and south into Central Alaska. C. opilio also occurs in the North Atlantic as far south as Casco Bay, Maine.

Three species of this genus have been reported from Alaskan waters. C. bairdi and C. opilio are encountered on the continental shelf to a depth of 473 m (259 f) and 155 M (85 f) respectively. C. angulatus occurs most frequently at greater depths and has been recorded at depths to 2972 m (1625 f). Of the three species occurring in Alaskan waters, two; C. bairdi and C. opilio, are commercially harvested with C. bairdi, comprising 95% of the catch (Brown 1971). Off the coasts of Washington and Oregon, C. tanneri is the dominant species with C. bairdi and C. angulatus present. C. opilio elongatus is harvested in the Sea of Japan, C. opilio by Japanese and Russian fishermen in the Bering Sea and by Canadians in the northwest Atlantic.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

There are a total of 213 references which have been listed in alphabetical order. Each reference is numbered. Those marked by asterisks were not seen by the authors.

The bibliography is annotated to the extent that references are grouped according to major subjects. Categorization of a paper under one subject does not necessarily describe in total the subject matter of the paper.

No attempt has been made to list newspaper reports and many anonymous articles in magazines and trade journals describing current fishing and processing operations.

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