

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-7-28-11

Issued at: Homer, Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2012, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Tanner crab fishery in waters of Kachemak Bay located east of a line from Anchor Point to Point Pogibshi beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2012.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. (b)(1)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2011, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2012:

### **5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.**

(b)(1)(B) Tanner Crab: in Kachemak Bay, east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, no open season; may not be retained or possessed;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Carol Kerkvliet  
Fisheries Biologist II

### JUSTIFICATION:

The 2011 non-commercial Tanner crab season opened July 15. Guided by the Cook Inlet Tanner crab harvest strategy a guideline harvest level of approximately 15,000 legal male Tanner crab was set for the fishery. ADF&G completed the Kachemak Bay Tanner crab trawl survey during late June 2011. Survey data were finalized and estimates developed. The department's 2011 Kachemak Bay survey estimate of 41,595 legal male Tanner crab is below the threshold of 50,000 set by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in the Registration Area H Tanner crab harvest strategy (5 AAC 35.408.). The strategy states that the non-commercial fishery will be closed when the estimated stock abundance is less than 50,000 legal male Tanner crab in any given year. The decline observed in legal male abundance was apparent across all but the very smallest (youngest) size classes of male Tanner crab. No survey was conducted in 2010. This estimate represents a large decline in legal male abundance from the 2009 estimate of 144,282 crab.

Cook Inlet Area waters west of the Anchor Point to Point Pogibshi line, including Kamishak and North Gulf Coast waters, will remain open through the 2011-2012 season.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.