

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-7-27-12

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 15, 2012

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2013, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Tanner crab season in Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast waters effective 12:01 a.m., Sunday, July 15, 2012, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, March 15, 2013.

### 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 (b)(1)(B) and (b)(2)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 15, 2012, 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;

(b)(2)(D) Tanner Crab: in Kachemak Bay, west of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, no open season; may not be retained or possessed;

Cora Campbell,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Kerkvliet  
Fisheries Biologist II

### JUSTIFICATION:

The department conducts trawl surveys annually in Kachemak Bay and biennially in the Kamishak and Barren Islands Districts to develop estimates of legal male Tanner crabs. The Cook Inlet Tanner crab harvest strategy establishes minimum abundance levels of legal male Tanner crab which must be attained for noncommercial (subsistence, personal use, and sport) fisheries to occur. The strategy requires a minimum estimate of

50,000 legal males from the department's Kachemak Bay survey; the required minimum estimate from the Kamishak Bay and Barren Islands survey is 40,000 legal males. If noncommercial fisheries are closed in the Kamishak and Barren Islands Districts, the harvest strategy also closes noncommercial fisheries in other areas including the Outer, Eastern and Central districts of Cook Inlet. Season dates for the noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries in Cook Inlet are July 15 through March 15.

The 2011-12 noncommercial Tanner crab season in Kachemak Bay waters east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point was closed when trawl survey results yielded an estimate of 41,595 legal males. No new data on Kachemak Bay legal male Tanner crab abundance are currently available. In the absence of new data, the Kachemak Bay noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2012 - 2013 season pending new trawl survey results. Survey results are expected to be finalized and followed by an announcement in mid-July.

The department completed the Kamishak Bay and Barren Islands Tanner crab abundance survey this June and measured no legal-sized Tanner crab resulting in an estimate of zero legal male Tanner crab. Therefore, in order to manage within the plan adopted by the Board, the Cook Inlet Area subsistence Tanner crab season will remain closed for the 2012 - 2013 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.