

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2014 Tanner Crab Seasons in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed analysis of the 2013 Tanner crab survey results from the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts. Commercial Tanner crab fisheries in these districts may occur when the estimated abundance of mature male Tanner crab exceeds stock size and management thresholds established in regulation (5 AAC 35.507; *Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts C. bairdi Tanner Crab, Harvest Strategies*). Based on 2013 survey results, mature male abundance in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts did not meet regulatory thresholds; therefore, commercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts will remain closed for the 2014 season.

**Kodiak District:** Mature male abundance thresholds are established for six sections in the Kodiak District ((5 AAC 35.507 (b)(1)(A-F)). A minimum of two sections must meet or exceed established stock size thresholds before a commercial fishery may open in the district. In sections that meet or exceed stock size thresholds, surplus mature male Tanner crab abundance must be sufficient to provide for guideline harvest levels (GHL) of at least 100,000 pounds per section and 400,000 pounds for the district. Based on 2013 Kodiak District survey results, two sections (Eastside and Southeast) exceeded stock size abundance thresholds; however, surplus abundance was not sufficient to meet the minimum GHL threshold in either section.

**Chignik District:** A single mature male abundance threshold is established for the Chignik District ((5 AAC 35.507 (b)(2)). Surplus abundance above the stock size threshold must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHL of 200,000 pounds of Tanner crab before the district may open to commercial fishing. The 2013 survey estimates of Tanner crab abundance were above the regulatory stock size threshold but below the 200,000 pound GHL requirement.

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**South Peninsula District:** Mature male abundance thresholds are established for two sections (Eastern and Western) in the South Peninsula District ((5 AAC 35.507 (b)(2)(A&B)). Surplus abundance above the stock size threshold for each section must be sufficient to provide for minimum GHGs of 200,000 pounds of Tanner crab before either section may open to commercial fishing. The estimated 2013 mature male abundance in the Eastern and Western sections were both below the stock size thresholds necessary for a commercial fishery in the South Peninsula District.

For additional information on Tanner crab harvest strategies or survey results, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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