

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-7-24-02

Issued at Homer, Thursday, August 1,
2002

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 3,
2002

Expiration Date: In effect until superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 2-TC-7-19-02 issued in Homer on July 18, 2002. This emergency order closes sport fishing for Tanner crab in Cook Inlet and Resurrection Bay saltwaters, effective Saturday, August 3 at 12:01 a.m. until further notice.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022 (1), (2), and (3) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 58.022 (1), (2), (3). WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Fishing for Tanner crab in all waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Cape Douglas and west of the longitude of Cape Puget is closed from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 3, until further notice.

Frank Rue
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The estimated Tanner crab abundance in the Kachemak Bay area from the multi-species trawl survey conducted in the Kachemak Bay area during July 8-17, is 69,400 legal males. The estimate is the lowest in the 12 year history of the survey. The minimum population size that is thought to be able to sustain a harvest is 100,000 legal male crab. This is the third consecutive year that abundance is below that amount. Despite closure of the commercial fishery in the Southern District since 1996 and restriction of the non-commercial harvest in 2001 and 2002, the abundance of legal-sized male crabs declined from the 2001 abundance estimate of 78,262 legal male crabs. It is therefore justified to close the sport fishery for Tanner crab in Kachemak Bay until the population abundance increases above 100,000 legal male crabs.

Tanner crab stocks in the Kamishak District are depressed. Tanner crab numbers north of Anchor Point and east of a line from Cape Douglas to Cape Elizabeth are not assessed but are thought to be small. Commercial Tanner crab fisheries elsewhere in Cook Inlet are closed due to low abundance. Little non-commercial effort or harvest currently occurs outside of the Southern District but there is potential for an increase in harvest by crabbers displaced from the Kachemak Bay area by restricted bag limits. It is therefore justified to close the Tanner crab sport fisheries throughout the Cook Inlet area.

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.