

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-7-27-10

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 15, 2010

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2011, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the daily bag and possession limits for male Tanner crab in Cook Inlet from 5 per person to 4 per person beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 15, 2010, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2011 during open fishing periods.

### 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. (a) (11) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 15, 2010, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2011:

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

(a)(11) Tanner crab: may only be taken from July 15 – March 15, except that the waters east of Cape Fairfield are closed; in Cook Inlet waters west of the longitude of Gore Point and north of the latitude of Cape Douglas, bag and possession limit is four male Tanner crab, a minimum of five and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell including spines; in Cook Inlet water east of the longitude of Gore Point and east of Cape Fairfield, bag and possession limit is five male Tanner crab, a minimum of five and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell including spines; a shellfish harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.026;

Denby S. Lloyd,  
Commissioner



By delegation to:

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Nicole J. Szarzi  
Fisheries Biologist III

### JUSTIFICATION:

The guideline harvest level for Kachemak Bay specified in 5 AAC 35.408 Registration Area H Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy is 10 percent of the recent five-year average of legal-sized male Tanner crab abundance estimated from an annual department trawl survey in Kachemak Bay. Trawl surveys were performed in 3 of the past 5 years and the average abundance for the three surveys is 182,843. The harvest guideline in Kachemak Bay for the fishing period July 15, 2010, through March 15, 2011, is therefore 18,284 legal male Tanner crab. The estimated harvest of legal male Tanner crab for the

preceding fishery beginning July 15, 2009, through March 15, 2010, was 20,645. A reduction in the bag limit from five to four should reduce the harvest in Kachemak Bay to approximately 17,800 Tanner crab. In order not to exceed the harvest guideline during the 2010/2011, a bag and possession limit reduction from five to four legal male Tanner crab is justified. Due to lack of trawl surveys in 2008 and 2010 and resulting uncertainty in the harvest guideline estimate, the Tanner crab bag limit will also be reduced from five to four in the remainder of Cook Inlet to increase enforceability by preventing crabbers from harvesting five crab from Kachemak Bay and claiming they fished outside the bay.

**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.