

Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands ~ Shellfish Regulations

LEGAL GEAR REQUIREMENTS FOR HARVESTING SHELLFISH

- Crab may be taken by hand, or with pots or ring nets; or by diving gear or dip nets; or by hooked or hookless lines, either operated by hand or attached to a pole or rod. Shrimp may be taken only with pots or ring nets. Clams may be taken by hand, or with rakes, shovels, or manually operated clam guns.
- No more than 5 pots of any size per person and 10 pots per vessel may be used to take shellfish at any time.
- If a keg or buoy is used on shellfish gear, the first initial and last name and home address of the person operating the pot must be legibly inscribed on the keg or buoy. In addition, the name or AK number of the vessel used to set the gear must also be inscribed on the keg or buoy.
- All pots must include an escape mechanism in accordance with shellfish harvest regulations (5 AAC 39.145). See below for description.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Octopus are occasionally caught in crab pots. Octopus are defined as "other shellfish." There are no closed seasons, nor bag or possession limits, but only pots may be used to take them.

⚠ **CAUTION! PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING HAS OCCURRED ON KODIAK BEACHES.** For more information, check the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's PSP web pages at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/seafood/psphome.htm>

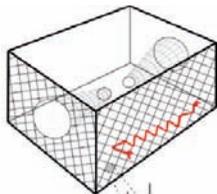
SHELLFISH POT GEAR ESCAPE MECHANISMS

(Summary of 5 AAC 39.145)

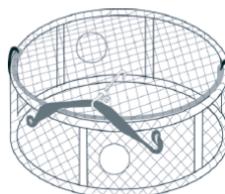
- Pot gear must include escape mechanisms in order to avoid waste of the resource in case the pot is lost.
- A sidewall, which may include the tunnel, must contain an opening at least 18 inches long (6 inches long for shrimp pots). The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot, and must be parallel to the bottom of the pot.
- The opening must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100 percent cotton twine no larger than 30-thread. The cotton twine may be knotted at each end only. The cotton twine may not be looped around or tied to the web bars.

Exception 1: Dungeness crab pots only may have the pot lid tie-down straps secured to the pot at one end by a single loop of untreated 100 percent cotton twine no larger than 60-thread.

Exception 2: Tanner crab and shrimp pots may use 36-thread twine (or smaller) and a galvanic timed-release device (GTR) in their 18-inch (or 6 inch for shrimp pots) opening. The GTR must be designed to release in no more than 30 days in salt water, and must be integral to the length of the twine so that when the device releases, the twine will no longer secure or obstruct the opening of the pot. The twine may be knotted only at each end and at the attachment points on the GTR.



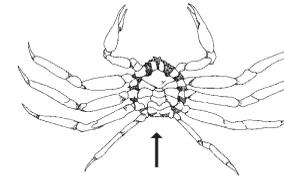
Placement of escapement mechanism



"Dungeness crab pot Exception 1" (see text)

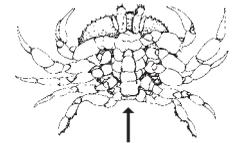
Crab identification and measurement chart

Tanner crab

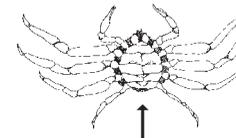


male-narrow abdominal flap

Dungeness crab

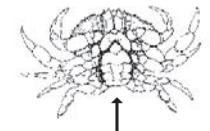


male-narrow abdominal flap



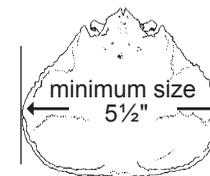
female-wide abdominal flap covers most of underside (females usually smaller than 5½")

NO HARVEST ALLOWED

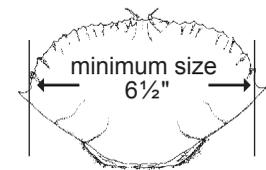


female-wide abdominal flap covers most of underside

NO HARVEST ALLOWED



Width measurement of Tanner crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, including spines.



Width measurement of Dungeness crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, not including spines.