

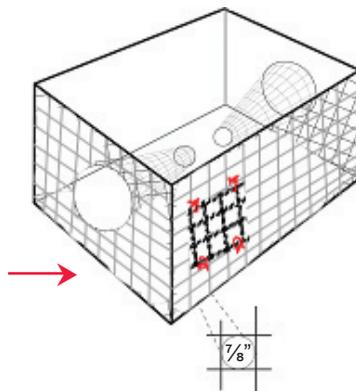
COOK INLET • NORTH GULF COAST • PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SHELLFISH: Sport and personal use regulations



GENERAL SHELLFISH REGULATIONS AND GEAR REQUIREMENTS

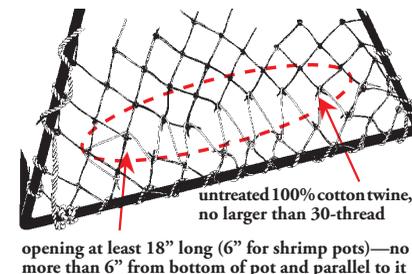
- A valid sport fishing license/PID card is required and must be in your possession when harvesting and/or transporting shellfish for sport or personal use.
- **PERMITS REQUIRED:** A shellfish harvest permit is required and must be in your possession when taking shrimp in Prince William Sound and the North Gulf Coast and crab in Cook Inlet, North Gulf Coast and Prince William Sound.
- Sport fishing bag and possession limits given here for shellfish are **not in addition** to those allowed under subsistence or personal use fishing regulations.
- **Minimum size:** No person may take or possess shellfish **smaller than the legal size.**
- No one may mutilate or otherwise disfigure a crab in any manner that prevents determination of its sex and/or minimum size restrictions until it has been processed or prepared for consumption. Only whole crab, cooked or uncooked, may be taken off a vessel.
- It is illegal to disturb, tamper with, or pull another angler's pots without prior permission of the pot's owner.
- **Legal gear: Clams** may be taken only with rakes, shovels, manually operated clam guns, or by hand. **Shrimp may be taken only** with pots and ring nets. **Crab** may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless hand lines.
- **Buoy requirements:** A keg or buoy attached to a pot must be plainly and legibly inscribed with the fisher's first initial, last name, home address, and the name or AK boat registration number of the vessel used to operate the pot. No portion of the line attaching the buoy to the crab pot may float on the surface. The line connecting the main buoy to auxiliary buoys may float.
- **Escapement mechanisms required:** All pots must have a biodegradable escape mechanism. In addition, crab pots must contain two escape rings no less than 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

Rigid mesh pots: Pots must have at least one opening in a sidewall, which may include the tunnel. The opening of a king crab or Tanner crab pot must be equal to or exceed a 12-inch by 8-inch rectangle, and the opening of a shrimp pot must be at least the size of a 4-inch square. The opening may be covered with a single panel secured to pot with no more than four single loops of 100% untreated cotton twine no larger than 30-thread. Each loop may only contain one knot



and cannot be tied or looped around the web bars. The panel must be attached so that when the twine degrades, the panel will drop away from the opening. The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and parallel to it.

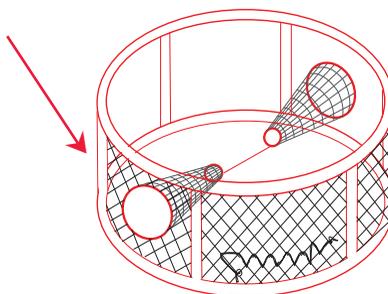
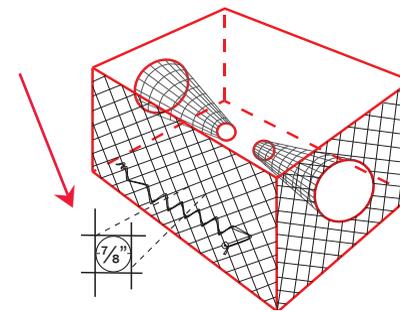
Net mesh pots: Pots must have a sidewall, which may include a tunnel, with an opening equal to or exceeding 18 inches in length for crab pots and 6-inches or greater in length for shrimp pots. The opening must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated 100% cotton twine no larger than 30-thread. The cotton twine may be knotted at each end only. The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and parallel to it. The cotton twine cannot be tied or looped around the web bars.



Shrimp Pot requirement: Two vertical sides of all shrimp pots must be made entirely of webbing big enough to allow a $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch round wooden dowel to go through without stretching or otherwise deforming the opening. The two vertical sides must touch each other. The webbing on these two sides cannot be covered by anything. The other two sides, as well as the top and bottom, may be composed of any material. The $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch size allows undersize and juvenile shrimp to escape.

The $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch size requirement does not apply to the tunnels.

A shrimp pot with no definable sides, such as a round pot, must have 50% of its vertical surface area covered with $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch webbing. The other 50% of its vertical sides, as well as its top and bottom, may be composed of any material. □



SHELLFISH SEASONS AND LIMITS: Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast

INCLUSIVE WATERS: Salt waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Cape Douglas and west of Cape Fairfield, including Kachemak Bay (salt waters east of a line from Anchor Point to Point Pogibshi) and Resurrection Bay (salt waters north of a line between Cape Resurrection and Aialik Cape). See salt water maps on pages 12 and 56.

- The intertidal beach between ADF&G regulatory markers along Shipwreck Cove in China Poot Bay and containing Otter Rock in Peterson Bay is closed to the harvest of all shellfish.

Species	Open season	Daily limits
Crab (King, Dungeness)	CLOSED	
Crab (Tanner) –in Kachemak Bay	July 15–Dec. 31 Jan. 15–Mar. 15	5 per day/5 in possession, 5½-inch min., males only, 2 pots per person, max. 2 per vessel ☛ see exceptions
–in all other Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast waters	July 15–Mar. 15	
Shrimp	CLOSED	☛ see exceptions for N. Gulf Coast
Littleneck clams	open entire year	1,000 per day/1,000 in possession <i>must be 1½" or wider</i>
Butter clams		700 per day/700 in possession <i>must be 2½" or wider</i>
Razor clams: –from the Kenai River south to the tip of the Homer Spit		60 per day/120 in possession <i>must be first 60 clams dug per day</i>
–in all other Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast waters		no bag or possession limit
Other shellfish		no bag or possession limit

SHELLFISH SEASONS AND LIMITS: Prince William Sound

INCLUSIVE WATERS: Salt waters of Prince William Sound from Cape Suckling to Cape Fairfield. See map on page 59.

Species	Open season	Daily limits
King crab	CLOSED	☛ see exceptions
Tanner crab		☛ see exceptions
Dungeness crab		
Shrimp	April 15–Sept. 15	5 pots per person, max. 5 per vessel. no bag or possession limits
Razor clams	open entire year	☛ see exceptions
Other shellfish		no bag, possession, or size limits

SHELLFISH EXCEPTIONS:

North Gulf Coast Personal Use Shrimp—Alaska residents only

- Open April 15 through September 15
- North Gulf Coast waters from Aialik Cape west to Gore Point (see map on page 56)
- Shrimp may only be taken with pots and ring nets
- 5 pots per person, maximum of 5 pots per vessel
- There are no bag, possession or size limits for shrimp
- A permit is required** and is available at Anchorage and Homer ADF&G offices
- Refer to Gear Regulations described on page 62

Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast Tanner Crab (see maps on pages 12 and 56)

- Open July 15–March 15, **except in Kachemak Bay, which is open July 15–December 31 and January 15–March 15**
- Gear is limited to 2 pots per person, with a maximum of 2 pots per vessel
- Bag and possession limits are 5 legal-sized (5½ inches or greater in carapace width) male Tanner crab a day (see page 11)
- A permit is required** and is available at Anchorage, Soldotna and Homer ADF&G offices, and the Fish House in Seward

Prince William Sound Subsistence Golden King Crab and Tanner Crab—Alaska residents only

- Open October 1–March 31
- Bag and possession limits are 5 legal-sized (5½ inches or greater in carapace width) male Tanner crab per person, per day
- There is an annual household limit of 3 legal-sized (7 inches as measured in a straight-line distance across the carapace, including spines) male golden king crab per year
- Gear is limited to 2 pots per person with a maximum of 2 pots per vessel
- A permit is required** and is available at Anchorage and Cordova ADF&G offices, and the Department of Public Safety offices in Seward and Valdez
- Open Waters:** See ADF&G website for waters open to subsistence crab fishing (http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/shellfish/pws_gkc.php), or call ADF&G Cordova at (907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Razor Clams

- Razor clams may be taken year round
- No bag and possession limit
- In waters east of 146° W. longitude and south of a line from the southernmost tip of Point Bentinck to the southernmost tip of Point Whittshed, only razor clams 4½ inches or longer may be taken and **a permit is required** and is available at the Cordova ADF&G office

Refill the holes you dig to prevent smothering other clams and intertidal organisms you may have buried under the sediment from your hole and leaving exposed clams and invertebrates.