

PERSONAL USE SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

for ALASKA RESIDENTS ONLY (nonresidents use sport fishing regulations on page 12)

Before you engage in personal use shrimp trawling, you must obtain a permit from any Commercial Fisheries Division office.

An Alaska resident sport fishing license is required to take shellfish for personal use in all areas of the state under the guidelines listed below. **In the Southeast Alaska area, however, nonresidents are required to abide by sport fishing seasons and bag limits on page 12 and the methods, means, and general provisions on page 8.**

Residents 60 years or older with a permanent ID card and all persons under 16 years of age are exempt from these license requirements.

Harvest, bag and possession, and pot limits for shellfish allowed under personal use may not be added to those allowed for subsistence use, nor those allowed under sport fishing regulations.

Unless otherwise allowed in specified areas, gear that may be used for taking of shellfish is as follows:

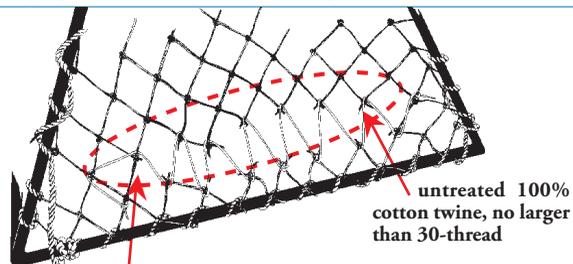
Shrimp—pots, ring nets, and trawls.

Crab—pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless hand lines, and by hand. Lines attached to rods or poles may be used only when fishing through the ice in the Bering Sea.

Clams—rakes, shovels, manually operated clam guns, and by hand. Geoducks may also be taken by hydraulic clam digger.

Abalone—abalone irons, diving gear (except SCUBA and hookah gear, which are prohibited), and by hand.

Other shellfish—all gear listed above, trawls, hand jigging, and hand-operated dredges.



opening at least 18" long (6" for shrimp pots)—no more than 6" from bottom of pot and parallel to it

It is unlawful to buy, sell, trade or barter personal use caught shellfish, their parts, or their eggs.

An angler using pots to take shellfish shall:

(1) plainly and legibly inscribe the angler's first initial, last name, home address, and the name or the Division of Motor Vehicles registration number (AK number) of the vessel used to operate the pot on a keg or buoy attached to each pot;

(2) not disturb, tamper with, or pull another angler's pots without prior permission of the pots' owner.

The number of pots that can be used in the taking of crab and shrimp are as follows:

• **Crab**—5 pots per person with a maximum of 10 pots per vessel, except no more than 4 pots per vessel may be used for king and Tanner crab.

• **Shrimp**—10 pots per person with a maximum of 20 pots per vessel.

Each pot used to take Dungeness, Tanner or king crab must have at least two circular escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot. The size of the escape rings must be at least 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches inside diameter for Dungeness crab pots, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches inside diameter for Tanner crab pots, and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches inside diameter for king crab pots. Rings used in Dungeness pots must be on the upper half of the vertical plane of the pot. Any pot used to take shrimp must **not** have (a) more than 4 tunnel eye openings that individually exceed 15 inches in perimeter, (b) a bottom perimeter greater than 153 inches, or (c) a volume that exceeds 25 cubic feet.

Pots must include an escape mechanism in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) A sidewall, which may include the tunnel, of all shellfish pots must contain an opening equal to or exceeding 18 inches in length, except in shrimp pots the opening must be a minimum of 6 inches in length. The opening must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100% cotton twine, no larger than 30-thread (see illustration). The cotton twine may be knotted at each end only. The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and must be parallel with it. The cotton twine may not be tied or looped around the web bars. Dungeness crab pots may have the pot lid tie-down straps secured to the pot at one end by a single loop of untreated, 100% cotton

twine no larger than 60-thread, as a substitute for the above requirements; the pot lid must be secured so that, when the twine degrades, the lid will no longer be securely closed.

(2) All king crab and Tanner crab pots may, instead of complying with (1) of this section, satisfy the following: a sidewall, which may include the tunnel, must contain an opening of 18 inches or more in length, which must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of treated or untreated twine no larger than 36-thread. A galvanic timed release device, designed to release within 30 days in salt water, must be integral to the length of twine, so that when the device releases, the twine no longer secures or obstructs the opening of the pot. The twine may be knotted only at one end and at the attachment points on the galvanic timed release device. The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and must be parallel with it. The twine may not be tied or looped around the web bars.

(3) In addition to escape rings required in all crab traps (see earlier section), all rigid mesh pots used to take shellfish must have at least one opening in a sidewall of the pot which may include the tunnel, except Dungeness crab pots that have a pot lid tie-down that complies with (1) of this section. The opening in a king or Tanner crab pot must be equal to or exceed a 12-inch by 8-inch rectangle. The opening in a Dungeness crab pot must be equal to or exceed a 10-inch by 6-inch rectangle. The opening in a shrimp pot must be equal to or exceed a four-inch square. The lower long edge of the opening must be parallel to and within six inches of the bottom of the pot. The opening may be covered with a single panel secured to the pot with no more than four single loops of untreated, 100% cotton twine no larger than 30-thread; each single loop of cotton twine may not be laced along the opening. The panel must be attached to the pot in a manner that when the cotton twine degrades, the panel will drop away from the pot exposing the opening completely.

• **No person may mutilate or otherwise disfigure any crab in any manner which would prevent determination of the minimum size restrictions until the crab has been processed or prepared for consumption.** No person may take or possess shellfish smaller than the minimum legal size limits.

• Live holding facilities used to pool multiple bag limits of crab by one or more persons are not allowed.

• Commercial shellfish fishermen may retain part of their lawfully taken commercial catch of shellfish for their personal use.

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PERSONAL USE SHELLFISH REGULATIONS—cont'd

• A commercially licensed and registered shrimp fishing vessel may not be used to take shrimp in Districts 6–8 and 10 from February 15 through April 30.

• A person or vessel that operates commercial, subsistence, sport or personal use pots or ring nets—other than commercial shrimp pots or Dungeness crab pots—during the 30 days immediately before the scheduled opening date for the commercial king or Tanner crab season in Registration Area A may not participate in the king or Tanner crab fishery.

• **Only male crab may be retained for personal use.** Male crab less than the minimum size limit and all female crab may not be possessed and must be returned unharmed to the water immediately.

• An owner, operator, or employee of a lodge, charter vessel, or other enterprise that furnishes food, lodging, or guide services, may not furnish to a client or guest of that enterprise shellfish that has been taken under this chapter for personal use or subsistence, unless the shellfish has been taken by the client or guest and that shellfish is to be consumed by the client or guest or the client or guest is present when the shellfish is consumed. Shellfish taken by a client or guest under this chapter may only be taken with shellfish gear conforming with marking requirements listed in the statewide regulations above, and operated by the client or guest.

• The captain and crew members of a charter vessel may not deploy, set, or retrieve their own gear in a personal use shellfish fishery when that vessel is being chartered.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA—EAST OF THE LONGITUDE OF CAPE FAIRWEATHER

☛ **For all shellfish species in Southeast Alaska, the possession limit equals one daily bag limit.**

King crab—east of Cape Spencer:

Bag and possession limit: 6 males (red, blue, and brown—in combination)

If the region wide harvestable biomass of mature red and blue king crab is below 200,000 pounds, the bag possession limit may be reduced by emergency order. Anglers should check with the nearest ADF&G office for current limits.

Size limits: **red** 7-inch minimum size
blue 6.5-inch minimum size
brown 7-inch minimum size

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Seasons: **red** July 1–March 31
blue July 1–March 31
brown July 1–June 15

In the Juneau area:

The king crab bag and possession limit is three (3) males in Subdistricts 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C. In Subdistrict 11-A, a personal use harvest permit is required to harvest king crab. Daily bag and possession limits and annual household and individual limits for Subdistrict 11-A are established just prior to the fishery opening on July 1 and are subject to change

during the season. Changes in bag, possession, and annual limits are posted in news releases throughout the Juneau area. Harvest permits, subdistrict maps, and other information are available at the ADF&G office in Douglas.

King crab—west of Cape Spencer:

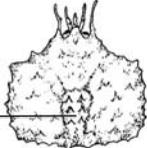
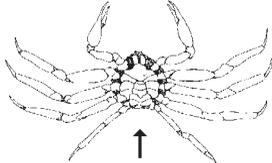
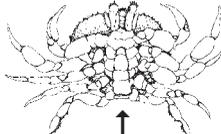
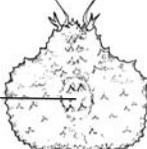
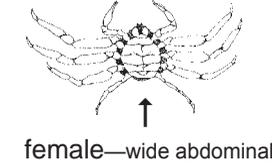
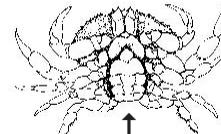
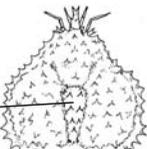
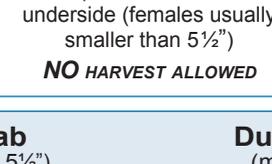
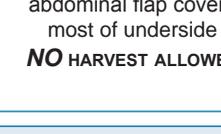
Season: open entire year
 Limits: same as east of Cape Spencer

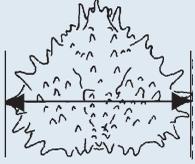
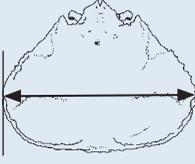
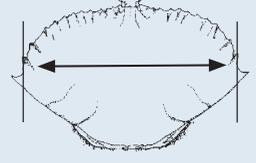
Tanner crab:

Season: July 1–June 15
 Limits: 30 males, 5.5-inch minimum size

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Crab identification and measurement chart

	KING CRAB	TANNER CRAB	DUNGENESS CRAB
6 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate			
	RED KING CRAB		
4 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate			
	BLUE KING CRAB		
5 to 9 spines on mid-dorsal plate			
	BROWN KING CRAB		
	male—narrow abdominal flap	male—narrow abdominal flap	male—narrow abdominal flap
	female—wide abdominal flap covers most of underside	female—wide abdominal flap covers most of underside (females usually smaller than 5½")	female—wide abdominal flap covers most of underside
	NO HARVEST ALLOWED	NO HARVEST ALLOWED	NO HARVEST ALLOWED

King crab	Tanner crab (minimum size 5½")	Dungeness crab (minimum size 6½")
		
Width measurement of king crab shall be the straight-line distance across the carapace and shall include the spines.	Width measurement of Tanner crab shall be the straight-line distance across the carapace and shall include the spines.	Width measurement of Dungeness crab shall be the straight-line distance across the carapace and shall not include the spines.

PERSONAL USE SHELLFISH REGULATIONS—cont'd

Dungeness crab:

Season: open entire year
Limits: 20 males, 6.5-inch minimum size, **except** in Thome Bay west of the longitude of the southernmost tip of Thome Head, where the limit is five (5) males.

Shrimp:

Season: open entire year
Limits: no bag limits or size restrictions, but shrimp may be taken only with pots, ring nets or trawls (by permit). Pots operated to take shrimp may be longlined; a buoy is not required for each pot, but at least one buoy on the longline must be marked as required in 5 AAC 77.010(d).

Abalone:

Season: open entire year
Limits: 50 abalone, 3.5-inch minimum size—**except** the bag and possession limit is **20 abalone** in those waters of Section 13-B (seaward of Baranof Island) that are north of the latitude of Dorothy Narrows and south of the latitude of Neva Strait (57° 16' N lat.), including the waters of Sitka Sound.

Geoducks:

Season: open entire year
Limits: 6 geoducks, no size restrictions

Clams:

Season: open entire year
Limits: No bag and possession limits on clams, **except: (1)** for razor clams on **western Kruzof Island beaches between** Cape Edgecumbe and Cape Georgiana, the bag and possession limit is 50 clams; and **(2)** all waters of the **Sitka Sound Special Use Area described on page 18** are closed by emergency order to the taking of razor clams.

Scallops:

There are no bag or possession limits for scallops, **except** the daily bag and possession limit is 5 rock scallop (*Hinrites* sp.) and 10 weathervane scallop (*Pecten* sp.). Season open year-round.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA—BETWEEN THE LONGITUDE OF CAPE SUCKLING AND CAPE FAIRWEATHER (YAKUTAT AREA)

King crab:

Season: open entire year
Limits: 2 males, no size restrictions
Commercial king crab fishermen need an ADF&G personal use permit to take king crab for personal use in Yakutat Bay. . . . cont'd

Tanner crab:

Season: July 1–June 15
Limits: 30 males, no size limit

Dungeness crab:

Season: open entire year
Limits: 20 males, 6.5-inch minimum size

Shrimp:

Season: open entire year
Limits: no bag, possession or size limits
Pots operated to take shrimp may be longlined; a buoy is not



Boating Tips:

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

- Lifejackets for each person (properly sized and worn)
- Current weather forecast and tides checked
- Boat plug installed/sea cock closed
- VHF marine radio (tested prior to departure)
- Fire extinguishers (fully charged)
- Throwable flotation device with floating line attached
- Sound-producing device (air horn, whistle, bell)
- Visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, signal light)
- Fuel and oil sufficient for trip (½ out, ½ return, ½ reserve)
- Battery fully charged, terminals covered & battery secured
- Bilge pump and manual pump or bailing device
- Tools and spare parts (battery, fuses, spark plugs, belts)
- Navigation lights functioning properly
- Registration certificate onboard, numbers and decals affixed
- Anchor
- Paddle/oar or other alternate propulsion
- Food/emergency shelter/drinking water
- First Aid Kit

required for each pot, but at least one buoy on the longline must be marked as required in 5 AAC 77.010(d).

Clams:

Season: open entire year
Limits: no bag, possession or size limits

Scallops:

There are no bag or possession limits for scallops, **except** the daily bag and possession limit is 5 rock scallop (*Hinrites* sp.) and 50 weathervane scallop (*Pecten* sp.). Season open year-round. □

KNOW YOUR VESSEL— Before departure, know that your vessel is in good working condition and properly equipped for emergencies. Avoid potential danger by keeping your boat well maintained; take a few minutes before each trip to inspect your boat. Use the checklist on the left.

ALWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET!— Drowning is the second leading cause of death in Alaska. Most Alaskans who die in boating accidents capsize or fall overboard and *are not wearing life jackets*. Life jackets should **always** be worn. Your life may depend on it!

OBTAIN LOCAL KNOWLEDGE— Study local maps, charts, weather reports, and tide tables. Contact the local harbormaster, village public safety officer, health officials, or talk to other local boaters before boating in a new area.

ALCOHOL AND BOATING DON'T MIX— Drinking while operating a boat is dangerous! Alcohol impairs your sense of balance, your peripheral and night vision, your judgment, and your reaction time. It also increases heat loss and risk of hypothermia.

DON'T OVERLOAD— Follow the recommendations of the capacity plate and owner's manual. Distribute weight for best handling, and secure loads against shifting. Remember, safe vessel capacity is greatly affected by weather and water conditions.

ALWAYS COMPLETE A FLOAT PLAN— Does someone know your plans in case you don't return on schedule? Leave word on where you are going and when you expect to return, who is onboard, and who to notify if you are overdue. Leave a detailed description of your boat and registration numbers. Then remember to let the same people know when you return. It's that simple!

EDUCATE YOURSELF— Boating education is a lifelong process. Take a boating safety course. Learn how to do basic troubleshooting and field repairs. Do your passengers know where the safety equipment is and how to use it? Do they know how to start, stop, and steer the boat? For information, contact the State Office of Boating Safety at (907) 269-8705, or visit our website:

www.alaskaboatingsafety.org