

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2019 Commercial Tanner Crab Fisheries in the
Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed analysis of 2018 Tanner crab survey results from the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts. Commercial Tanner crab fisheries in these districts may occur when the estimated abundance of mature male Tanner crab meets or exceeds abundance thresholds and minimum guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established in regulation (5 AAC 35.507. *Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts C. bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategies*).

Kodiak District: Mature male abundance thresholds are established for six sections in the Kodiak District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(1)(A-F)). A minimum of two sections must meet or exceed established minimum GHLs before a commercial fishery may open. In sections that meet or exceed the abundance thresholds, abundance must also be sufficient to provide for a GHL of at least 100,000 pounds per section and at least 400,000 pounds total for all open sections in the district. Based on 2018 Kodiak District survey results, the Eastside and Southeast sections exceeded regulatory thresholds necessary for a 2019 commercial Tanner crab season. **The 2019 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab GHLs will be 500,000 pounds in the Eastside Section and 115,000 pounds in the Southeast Section.** The Northeast, Southwest, Westside, North Mainland, South Mainland, and Semidi Island Overlap sections will remain closed for the 2019 commercial Tanner crab season.

Fisheries in the Eastside and Southeast sections will be monitored inseason and section or subsection closures may occur before GHLs are fully harvested based on fishery performance and harvest distribution.

The Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season will open at noon January 15, 2019 unless delayed by weather. The 2019 Kodiak District Tanner crab GHL is less than 2,000,000 pounds; therefore, the regulatory gear limit is 20 pots per vessel. Additional information regarding buoy

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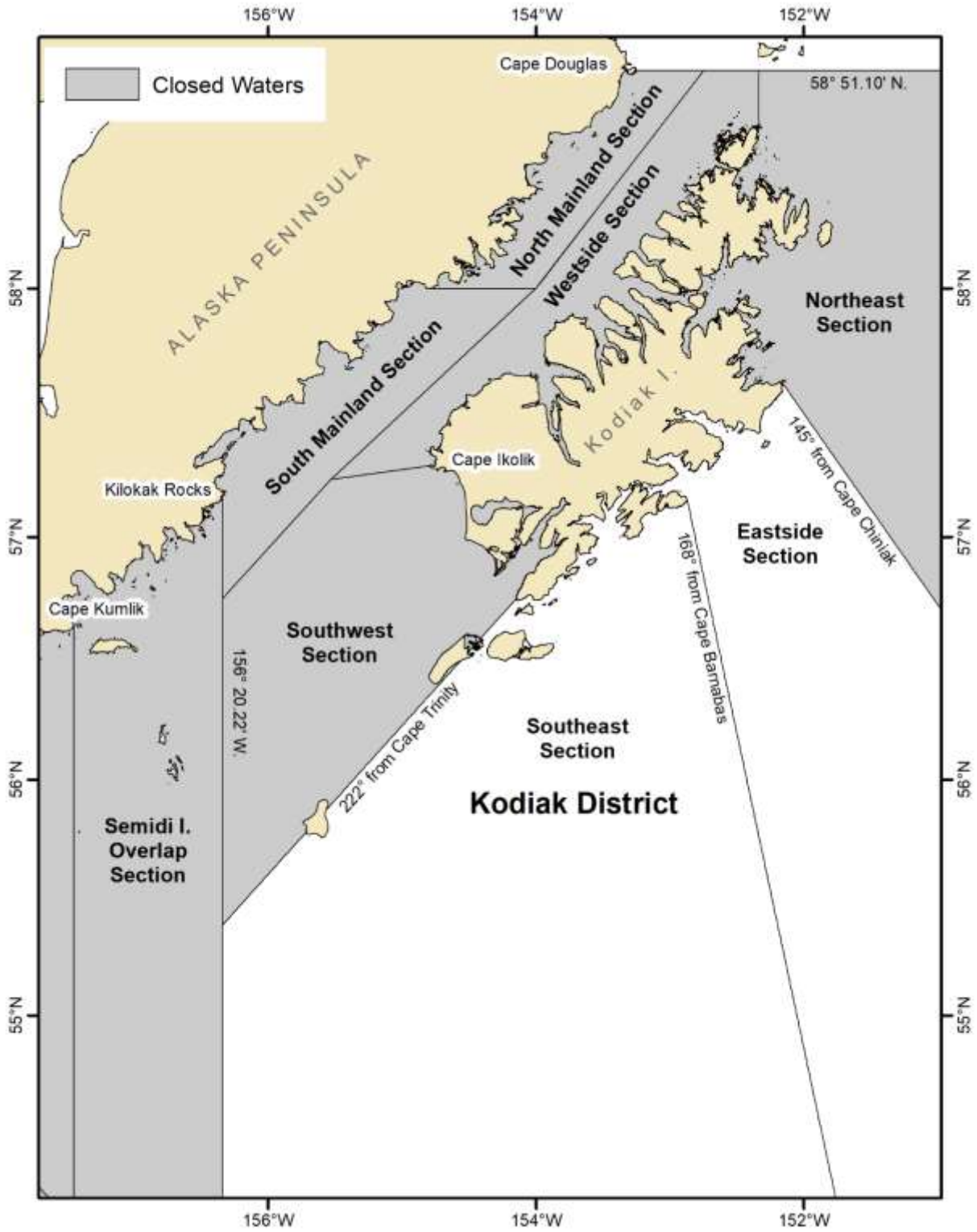
tags, registration, weather delays, inseason catch reporting, and fishery management actions will be provided in subsequent news releases prior to the season opening.

Chignik District: A single mature male abundance threshold is established for the Chignik District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(2)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHL of 200,000 pounds before a commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur in the district. The 2018 survey abundance estimate of mature male Tanner crab was below the regulatory abundance threshold; therefore, the Chignik District will remain closed for the 2019 commercial Tanner crab season.

South Peninsula District: Mature male abundance thresholds are established for two sections (Eastern and Western) in the South Peninsula District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(3)(A and B)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHL of 200,000 pounds before either section may open to commercial fishing. The 2018 survey abundance estimates of mature male Tanner crab were below regulatory thresholds for both Eastern and Western sections; therefore, the South Peninsula District will remain closed for the 2019 commercial Tanner crab season.

For additional information on Tanner crab harvest strategies or survey results, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

Closed waters for the 2019 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season.



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