

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



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EASTERN ALEUTIAN DISTRICT TANNER CRAB 2019 FISHERY CLOSED

Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed analysis of trawl survey results for the Eastern Aleutian District Tanner crab stock. The 2018 trawl survey estimates of mature male Tanner crab abundance were compared to established regulatory thresholds for the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay, Makushin/Skan Bay, and Akutan Sections. A commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur when estimated abundance of mature male Tanner crab meets or exceeds stock size thresholds established in regulation and meets or exceeds minimum guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established in regulation. The department will consider the reliability of the estimates of abundance of Tanner crab, the manageability of the fishery, and other factors deemed necessary to be consistent with sustained yield principles (5 AAC 35.509 *Eastern Aleutian District Tanner crab harvest strategy*).

Akutan Section: The 2018 survey abundance estimate of mature male Tanner crab in the Akutan Section is 39,756 crab which is below the threshold of 200,000 crab required for a fishery opening. Therefore, the Akutan Section will be closed during the 2019 season.

Makushin/Skan Bay Section: The 2018 survey abundance estimate of mature male Tanner crab in the Makushin/Skan Bay Section is 250,744 crab which is above the threshold of 45,000 crab required for a fishery opening. However, due to the high exploitation rate on legal males necessary to meet the minimum regulatory GHL of 35,000 pounds, the Makushin/Skan Bay Section will remain closed during the 2019 season.

Unalaska/Kalekta Bay Section: The 2018 survey abundance estimate of mature male Tanner crab in the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay Section is 251,708 crab which is above the threshold of 65,000 crab required for a fishery opening. However, due to the high exploitation rate on legal males necessary to meet the minimum regulatory GHL of 35,000 pounds, the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay

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Section will remain closed during the 2019 season.

For further information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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