SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL TANNER CRAB FISHING SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg . . . The Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy [5 AAC 35.113] establishes commercial Tanner crab fishing season length using estimated mature male biomass and the number of registered pots at the start of the fishery. As of 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2019, there are 62 pot vessels and 4,950 pots registered for the 2018/2019 commercial Tanner crab fishery. At the current estimated mature male biomass and effort level of 4,950 registered pots, the harvest strategy provides two additional days of season length in “core”, “non-core”, and “exploratory” areas. The 2018/2019 commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will open in “core”, “non-core”, and “exploratory” areas (described in 5 AAC 35.113(c)) at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. The season will close in “core” fishing areas after seven fishing days at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, close in “non-core” areas after twelve fishing days at 12:00 noon on Sunday, February 24, 2019, and close in the “exploratory” area after twenty-six fishing days at 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 10, 2019.

Shellfish management staff will be available in Juneau/Douglas and Petersburg for permit holders during the duration of the Tanner fishery, including weekends and holidays on an “on-call” capacity. For assistance February 16-18 and February 23-24, shellfish management staff in Juneau/Douglas can be reached at (907) 723-3342 and (907) 957-2256, and in Petersburg at (907) 518-4421 and (907) 518-0755.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C0819.