

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Homer Area Office
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2020

CONTACT: Jan Rumble and Elisa Russ
Shellfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 235-8191

Prince William Sound Area Tanner Crab Test Fishery Opportunity

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) is soliciting bids to contract vessels to conduct a test fishery using pot gear to harvest up to 30,000 lb of Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS). Six Lots of up to 5,000 lb each are available in defined areas of the Northern and Hinchinbrook districts (Figure 1).

The minimum bid price is \$0.35 per pound of Tanner crab harvested. Bids will be accepted for 6 individual Lots with a maximum of 5,000 lb each. Contracts will be awarded to the highest bidder for each Lot. In the event of a bidding tie, the contract will be awarded via random drawing. All costs associated with the test fishery are assumed by the successful bidder. Vessel owners may bid on more than one Lot.

Vessel owners interested in obtaining a request-for-quotation (RFQ) sheet should contact Jan Rumble or Elisa Russ at ADF&G in Homer, or leave a voicemail request for the packet, including contact information, at 907-235-8191.

Bids must be received by 12:00 noon February 14, 2020. See RFQ for submission information.

The PWS Tanner crab Test Fishery will be conducted between February 22 and April 7, 2020. The vessel operator will be required to have prior commercial Tanner crab fishing experience. Fishing is limited to the Northern and Hinchinbrook districts of PWS, Registration Area E (Figure 1). There is a maximum gear limit of 25 Tanner crab pots per vessel.

Six different Test Fishery areas (Lots A-F) are defined with corresponding statistical areas (Figure 1). Within each Lot, 25 mandatory pot locations are defined, and pots must be set within 0.5 nautical miles of these specific locations. Additional pot locations fished within each Lot are up to the vessel operator. The maximum harvest level for each of the six defined Lots is 5,000 lb, which includes the harvest from the 25 mandatory pot locations. Log sheets and daily call-ins are required; all requested information must be reported for each pot location. Vessels must accommodate ADF&G observers upon request; adequate notice must be provided before vessel departure to allow for observer deployment.

Vessels may only deliver Tanner crab from one Lot during a Test Fishery trip. Vessels may participate in both the PWS Tanner Crab Test Fishery and the PWS Commissioner's Permit Tanner Crab Fishery; however, mixed deliveries are not permitted, and vessels may not haul gear from both fisheries during the same trip. All Tanner crab harvested during the PWS Test Fishery must be offloaded before hauling gear in the Commissioner's Permit Fishery; and conversely, vessels must offload all Tanner crab from the Commissioner's Permit Fishery before hauling gear in the PWS Test Fishery. Participants in the PWS Test Fishery must check in with ADF&G before fishing, give prior notice of landing, and check out before fishing in the Commissioner's Permit fishery.

ADF&G seeks to gather information on the current health of the PWS Tanner crab stock in areas outside and within the ADF&G trawl survey areas, and outside the Commissioner's Permit Fishery areas (Eastern and Western districts). Specifically, the purpose of the test fishery is to collect information on legal male catch rate, male size composition, and distribution of Tanner crab in areas of the Northern and Hinchinbrook districts.

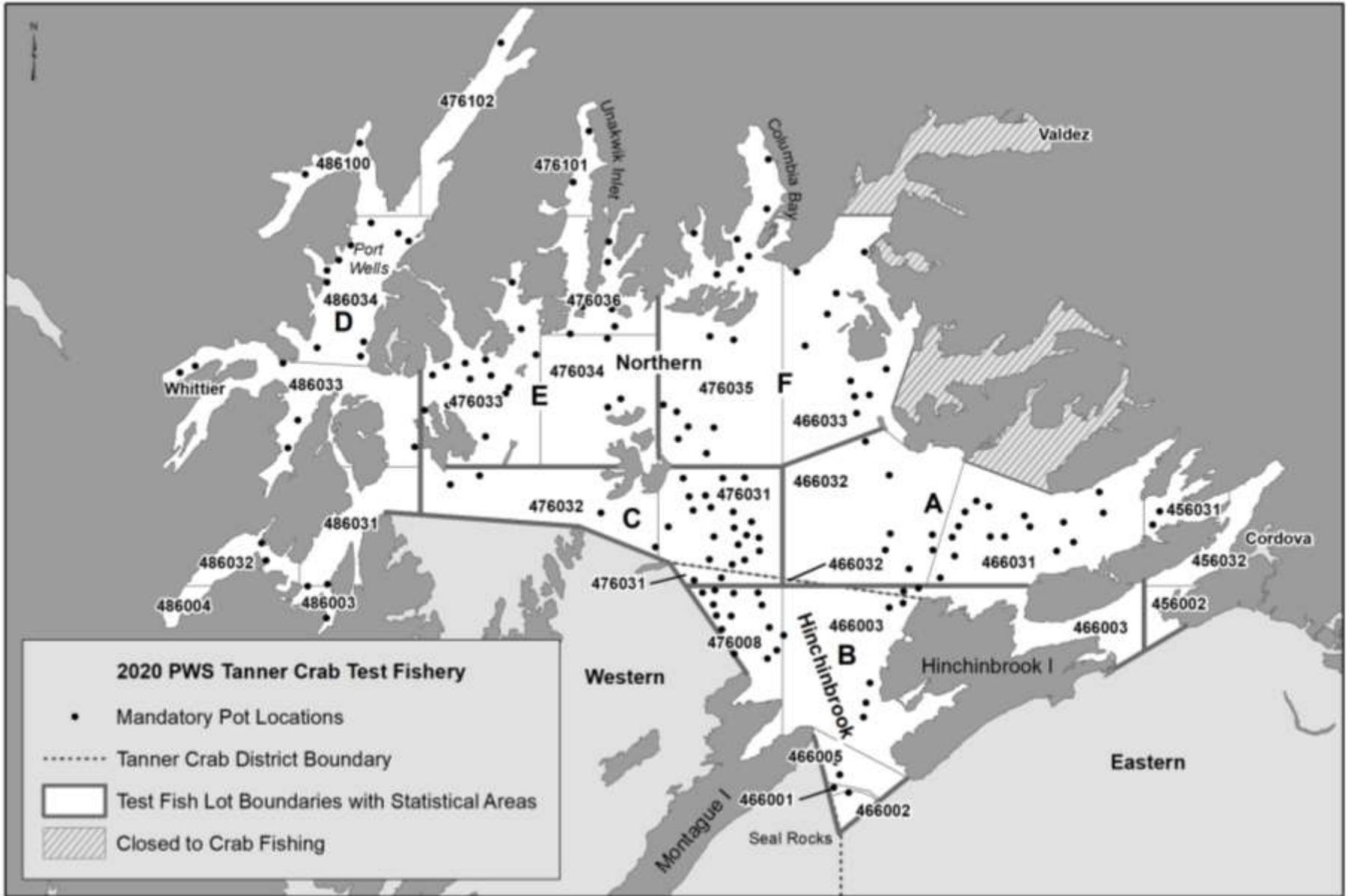


Figure 1.—Prince William Sound Area Tanner crab Test Fishery Lots (A-F) with statistical areas and mandatory pot locations.