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Advisory Announcement
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Bering Sea Tanner Crab Season Opens October 15
Total Allowable Catch Announced

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed stock assessment analysis for the Bering Sea District Tanner crab stock. The 2020/21 Western Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery (WBT), west of 166° W long, will open 12:00 noon October 15, 2020 and close 11:59 pm March 31, 2021 with a TAC of 2.348 million pounds. The Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery (EBT), between 166° W long and 163° W long will remain closed for the 2020/21 season

Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery in waters west of 166° W long. During the directed WBT fishery, snow crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to thirty-five percent of the weight of Tanner crab onboard a vessel. Fishermen may not concurrently register for multiple Bering Sea crab fisheries. Retention of incidentally caught Tanner crab is prohibited onboard a vessel registered for the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery or onboard a vessel registered to fish Bering Sea snow crab, operating in waters east of 166° W long.

The Bering Sea District Tanner crab TAC is apportioned as follows:

	West of 166° W long (WBT)	East of 166° W long (EBT)
Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	2,113,200 pounds	-
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	234,800 pounds	-
Total	2,348,000 pounds	CLOSED

To protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock, the WBT fishery will not open in waters enclosed by connecting the following coordinates: 58° N, 171° W; 58° N, 168° W; 57° N, 168° W; 56° 30' N, 169° W; 56° 30' N, 170° W; 57° N, 171° W; 58° N, 171° W. The associated closed ADF&G statistical areas are: 685730, 695730, 705730, 705701, 705703, 695701, 695700, 685700, 695631, 695632, the northeast half of 705630, and the northwest half of 685630. A map of the closed area will be provided at the time of registration.

A valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Decal is required before a vessel registration may be issued. Vessels must also have an activated vessel monitoring system approved by NMFS. The operator of a vessel participating in IFQ or CDQ crab fisheries must notify the USCG at least 24 hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted at: (907) 581-3466 or (907) 359-1575 (after hours).

At the time of vessel registration, all pots onboard the vessel and in wet storage must comply current Bering Sea Tanner crab fishing regulations. There is no crab pot limit or buoy tag requirement for the Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery. Fishermen may register up to 20 groundfish pots. Fishermen are reminded to report all Pacific cod retained for bait on fish tickets at time of landing.

A fisherman may transport crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another fisherman. The registered fisherman of the crab pot gear has seven days to be active in the registration area where the gear is deployed. Fishermen may register for gear operation cooperatives, and a fisherman may make a one-time transfer of all pot gear to one other fisherman at the completion of fishing operations.

Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands crab fishery registrations will be completed by email through the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office beginning Monday, October 5th. Vessel inspections (tank checks) will not be conducted for 2020/21 crab fisheries. Please call 907-581-1239 or email ethan.nichols@alaska.gov to register and/or check out of a crab fishery.

An individual must possess a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bering Sea Tanner crab interim use permit card (T91Q or T09Q) prior to registration. Fishermen may participate concurrently in IFQ and CDQ fisheries, but a separate registration and CFEC permit card are required for each fishery and CDQ group.

Fishermen must notify ADF&G within 72 hours of completing fishing operations in the registration area or when departing the registration area with gear in long-term storage or transferred to another vessel. Unbaited gear with doors secured open may be stored for up to 14 days outside of designated storage areas after fishing is completed. Pots must be removed from the water or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than 14 days. A fisherman’s registration will be invalidated after 14 days of inactivity in a registration area.

For questions regarding issuance of quota share and IFQ/IPQ, contact NOAA Fisheries RAM Division at 1-800-304-4846 (option #2). For questions regarding federal Crab Rationalization Program regulations, contact NOAA Fisheries Sustainable Fisheries Division at (907) 586-7228 or the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in Kodiak at (907) 486-3298 or Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-2061.

For further information contact ADF&G Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239, or ADF&G Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

COVID-19

Under Alaska’s Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska’s Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

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