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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release:*

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### 2024 Commercial Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts

#### Emergency Order 4-S-01-24

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has established guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for the 2024 commercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts. Guideline harvest levels are as follows:

District/Section	Tanner crab GHLs (pounds)
<b>Kodiak</b>	
Eastside	2,435,000
Southeast	465,000
Southwest	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>
<b>Chignik</b>	
	<b>Closed</b>
<b>South Peninsula</b>	
Eastern	225,000
Western	255,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>480,000</b>

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed review of 2023 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 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(c)(1) and (2)). 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. Based on 2023 Kodiak District survey results, the Eastside, Southeast, and Southwest Sections exceeded regulatory thresholds necessary for a 2024 commercial

Tanner crab season. **The 2024 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab GHGs will be 2,435,000 pounds in the Eastside Section, 465,000 pounds in the Southeast Section, and 100,000 pounds in the Southwest Section.** The Northeast, Westside, North Mainland, and South Mainland Sections will remain closed for the 2024 commercial Tanner crab season.

By regulation, the Semidi Island Overlap Section opens when either the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District or the Chignik District opens; therefore, the Semidi Island Overlap Section will open in 2024 to both Kodiak District and Chignik District permit holders. The regulatory season closure date for the Semidi Island Overlap is 12:00 noon February 28.

The Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season will open at 12:00 noon on January 15, 2024 unless delayed by weather. The 2024 Kodiak District Tanner crab GHG is less than 5,000,000 pounds; therefore, the regulatory pot limit will be 20 pots per vessel in the Eastside, Southeast, and Southwest Sections and 70 pots per vessel in the Semidi Island Overlap Section.

**Chignik District:** A single mature male abundance threshold is established for the Chignik District (5 AAC 35.507(c)(1) and (2)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHG of 200,000 pounds before a commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur in the district. Based on 2023 survey results, the Chignik District was below the regulatory abundance threshold; therefore, **the Chignik District will remain closed for the 2024 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(c)(1) and (2)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHG of 200,000 pounds before either section may open to commercial fishing. Based on 2023 survey results, both the Eastern and Western Districts exceeded regulatory thresholds necessary for a 2024 commercial Tanner crab season. **The 2024 South Peninsula District commercial Tanner crab GHGs will be 225,000 pounds in the Eastern Section and 255,000 pounds in the Western Section.**

The South Peninsula District commercial Tanner crab season will open at 12:00 noon on January 15, 2024 unless delayed by weather. The 2024 South Peninsula District Tanner crab GHG is less than 2,000,000 pounds; therefore, the regulatory pot limit will be 20 pots per vessel. Vessels greater than 58 feet in overall length may not participate in the South Peninsula District commercial Tanner crab fishery.

All Tanner crab fisheries will be monitored inseason and district/section or subdistrict/subsection closures may occur before the GHGs are fully harvested based on fishery performance and harvest distribution. Additional information regarding registration, weather delays, inseason catch reporting, and fishery management actions will be provided in subsequent advisory announcements prior to the season opening.

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

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