

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



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**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
SUBSISTENCE GOLDEN KING AND TANNER CRAB
SEASONS OPEN**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area subsistence golden king crab and Tanner crab seasons open October 1 and will close March 31. These fisheries are open only to Alaska residents. **Prior to fishing, an individual must obtain a 2015/16 PWS subsistence crab fishing permit.** Household permits will be issued and available beginning September 22 at ADF&G offices in Cordova, Homer, Soldotna, and Anchorage, by prior appointment from the Alaska Department of Public Safety/Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Valdez (835-4307), and through the Fish House in Seward. Each participant in this fishery must possess a permit or be named on the permit of another household member. The permit must be in possession of the person fishing and the permit catch report must be completed immediately following pot retrieval.

Gear is limited to two pots per person with no more than two pots per vessel. Each pot must have two escape rings with an inside diameter of at least $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches, meet biodegradable escape mechanism requirements (5 AAC 39.145), and may not have any line floating on the surface except that portion connecting the main buoy to a trailer buoy (5 AAC 02.207). Each pot must have a keg or buoy attached that is plainly and legibly inscribed with the fisherman's first initial, last name, home address, and the name or the Division of Motor Vehicles boat registration number (AK number) of the vessel used to operate the pot (5 AAC 02.010).

The Tanner crab bag and possession limits are five male Tanner crab, 5½ inches or greater in carapace width, per person per day. Waters closed to subsistence crab fishing within PWS include: Port Valdez, Galena Bay, Port Fidalgo, and Port Gravina (Figure 1).

Only male golden king crab 7 inches or greater in carapace width may be retained and these may be harvested only from PWS waters west of 147° 20.00' W. longitude. There is an annual household limit of 3 golden king crab.

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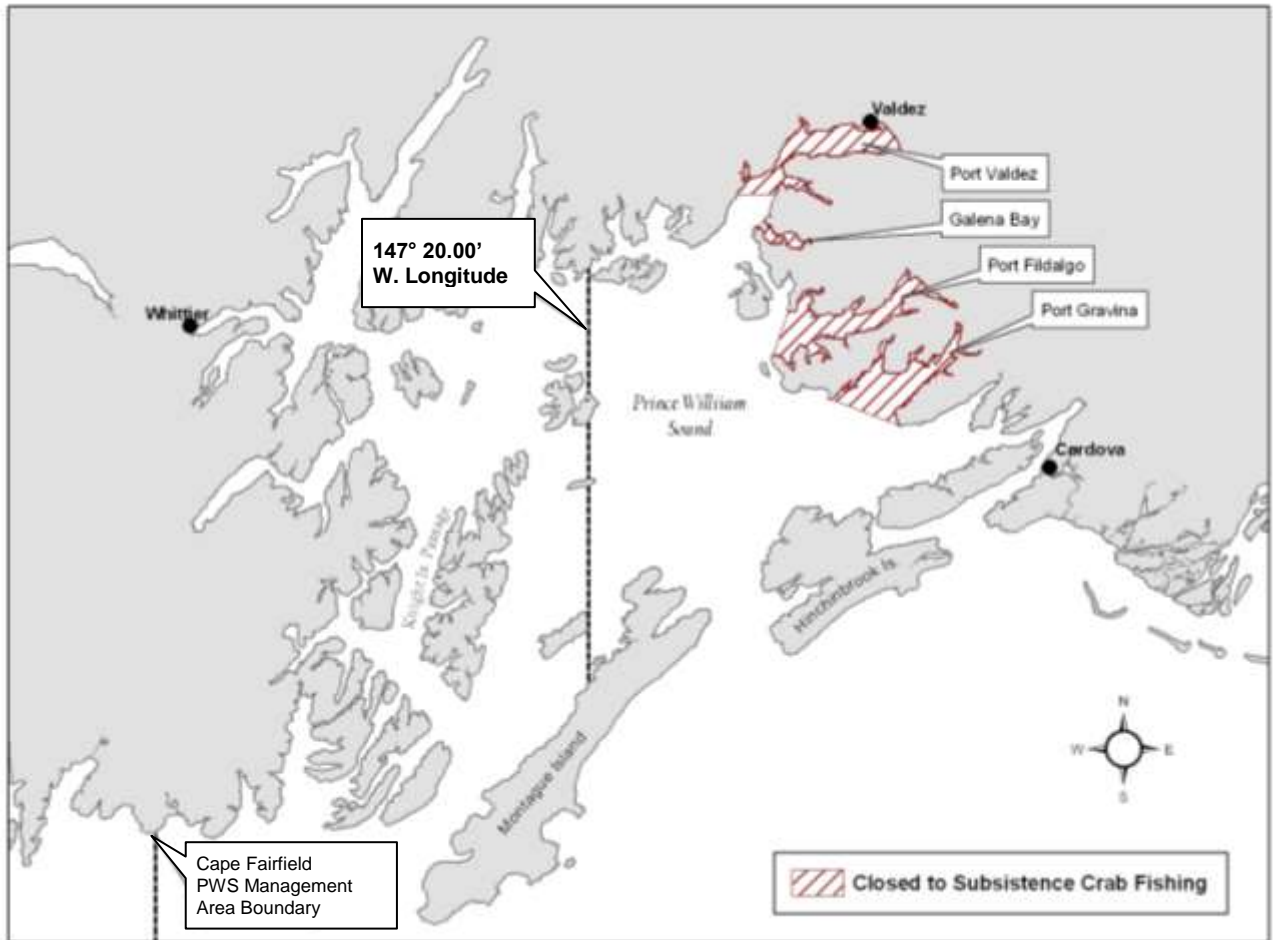


Figure 1. Prince William Sound areas open to subsistence Tanner and king crab fishing in beginning October 1. Golden king crab may only be harvested in those waters west of 147° 20.00' W. long.

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