

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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FISHERY UPDATE

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA

COMMISSIONER'S PERMIT TANNER CRAB FISHERY

WESTERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ONLY

Commissioner's Permit applications are available through the Homer ADF&G office to participate in a Tanner crab fishery in the Western and Eastern Districts (5 AAC 35.305 (b) and (c); Figure 1) of the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; 5 AAC 35.311).

In order to apply, a valid 2018 CFEC interim-use permit card for Prince William Sound Tanner crab (T09E or T91E) is required. In addition, the vessel operator/CFEC permit holder must have an established market for all Tanner crab and communicate this information to the department.

PWS is a superexclusive registration area for Tanner crab (5 AAC 35.306 (a)) and this applies to the Commissioner's Permit fishery (5 AAC 35.311 (e)); an operator of a Tanner crab vessel validly registered for a superexclusive registration area may not operate any other Tanner crab vessel registered for any other superexclusive registration area in the same registration year as established under 5 AAC 35.020 (h).

The fishery will be opened March 1 – March 31, 2018 unless closed earlier due to conservation measures. A maximum of 50 pots may be operated by a vessel. Pot tags are required and may be acquired through the Homer or Cordova ADF&G offices (or mailed to applicant). Additional gear restrictions may be defined as necessary and, depending on the number of permits issued, the pot limit may be adjusted. Unless otherwise specified in the permit, all provisions of Tanner crab regulations in 5 AAC Chapter 35 must be adhered to, including size limits for Registration Area E (5AAC 35.320), lawful gear specifications (5AAC 35.325 (a) and (c)), and pot marking requirements (5AAC 35.326). Only male Tanner crab five inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed.

Vessels must check-in with ADF&G staff in Homer prior to each fishing trip and allow adequate time for deployment of ADF&G personnel acting as onboard observers when required. The vessel must have a current United States Coast Guard safety decal and inspected life raft that can accommodate all persons onboard the vessel. Costs associated with accommodating an observer will be the responsibility of the vessel. Daily call-in and completed log sheets are mandatory during the fishery.

Please contact the Homer office to apply for this Commissioner's Permit fishery or with questions: (907) 235-8191 during regular business hours.

NR01-SF-E-18 PWS CP Tanner Crab Fishery

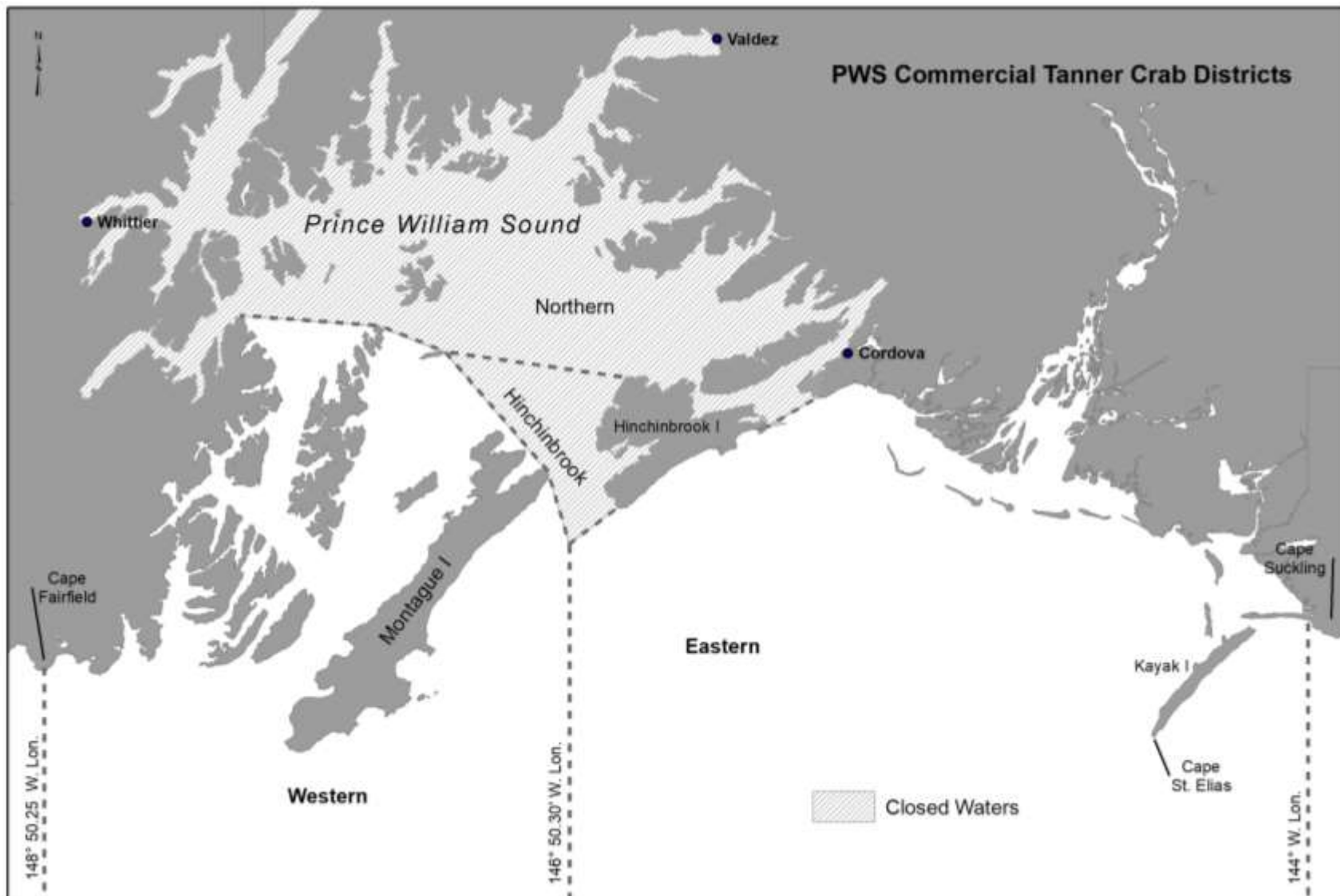


Figure 1. Prince William Sound Area Commercial Tanner Crab Districts; Commissioner's Permit fishery open in Western and Eastern Districts.

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