



FIELD GUIDE TO KING CRAB IDENTIFICATION



Three species of king crab occur in the Prince William Sound area but only *legal size male golden king crab* may be harvested in the Prince William Sound subsistence golden king crab and Tanner crab fishery.

ONLY GOLDEN KING CRAB MAY BE HARVESTED

GOLDEN KING CRAB

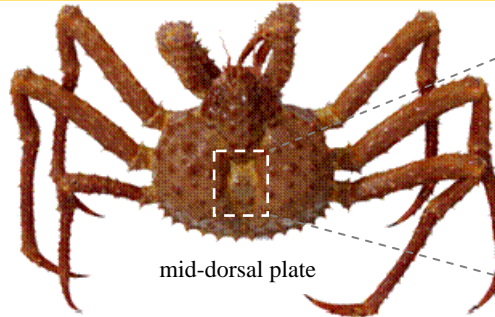
Lithodes aequispinus

5 to 9 spines on mid-dorsal plate

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD LIMIT = 3

ONLY LEGAL SIZE MALE CRAB

MAY BE HARVESTED (SEE REVERSE)



mid-dorsal plate



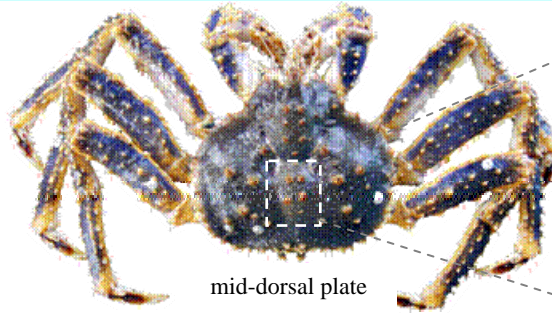
mid-dorsal plate

BLUE KING CRAB

Paralithodes platypus

4 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate

NO HARVEST ALLOWED



mid-dorsal plate



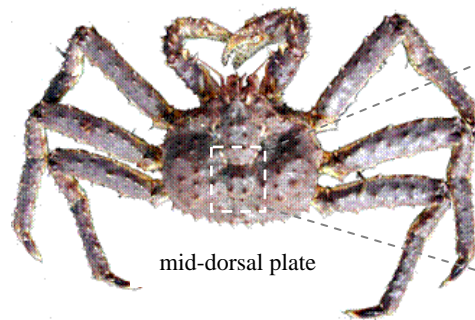
mid-dorsal plate

RED KING CRAB

Paralithodes camtschaticus

6 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate

NO HARVEST ALLOWED



mid-dorsal plate



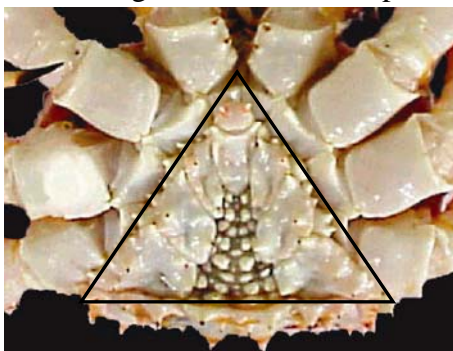
mid-dorsal plate

HOW TO DETERMINE SEX

Only legal size *male* golden king crab may be harvested.

MALE KING CRAB

Triangular abdominal flap



FEMALE KING CRAB

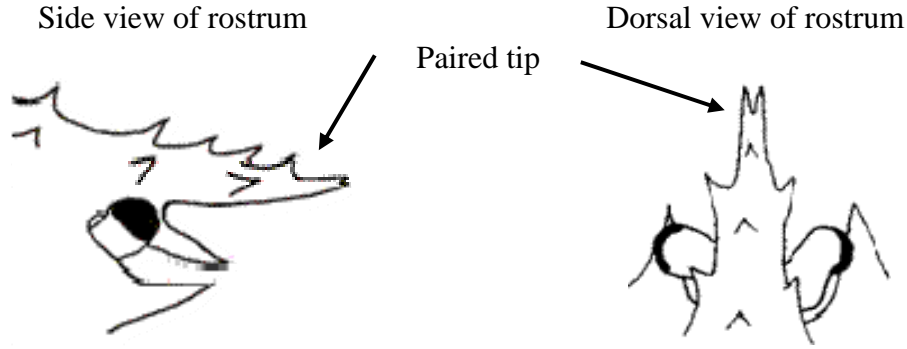
Circular abdominal flap



-continued-

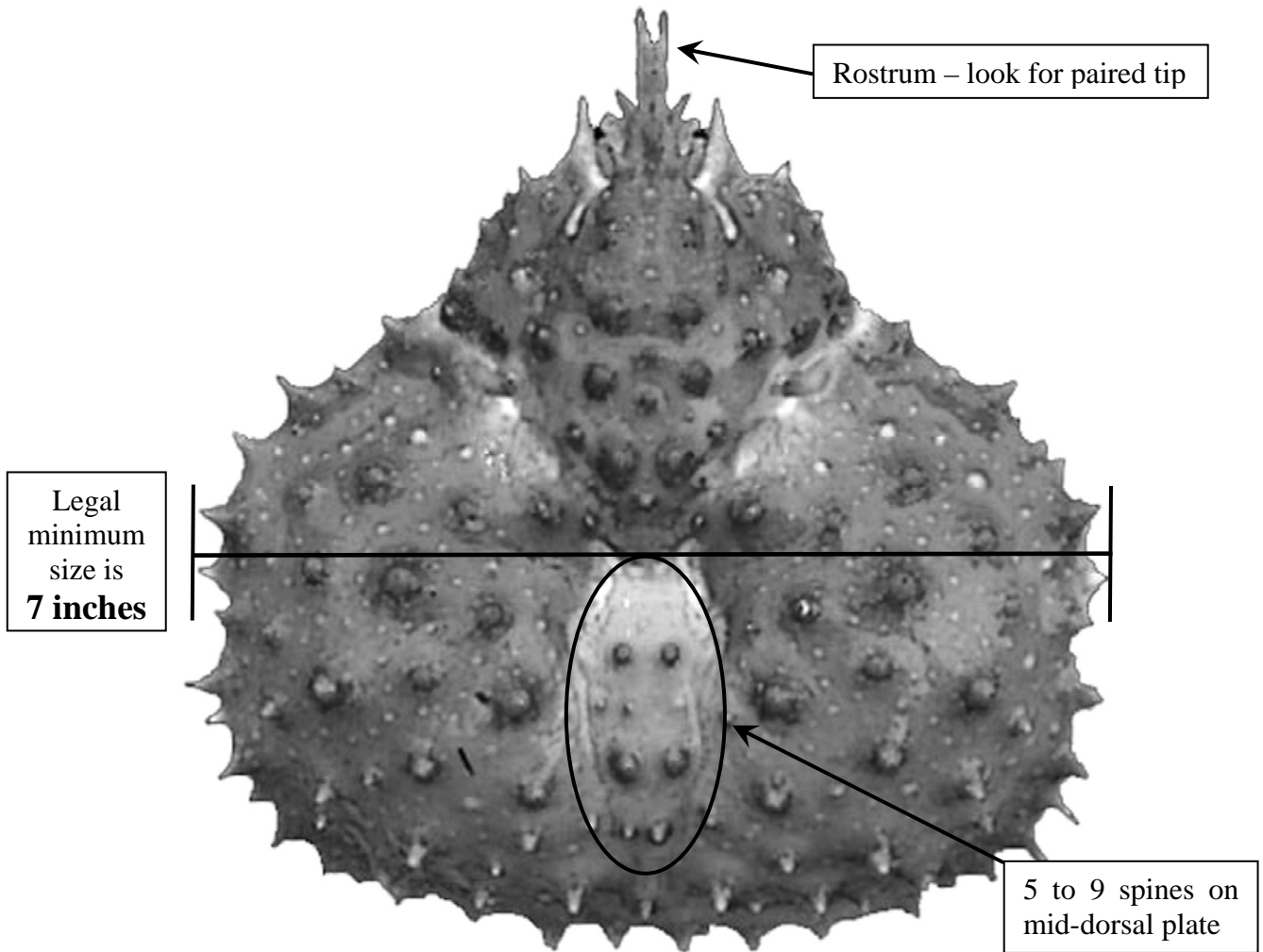


GOLDEN KING CRAB IDENTIFICATION



HOW TO DETERMINE SIZE

Legal male golden king crab carapace width is **7 inches** or larger and is measured as the greatest straight line distance across the carapace including spines.



More king crab information can be found in *Biological Field Techniques for Lithodid Crabs* by William E. Donaldson and Susan C. Byersdorfer, Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska 2005.

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