

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



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**CLOSURE OF THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE
SOUTH PENINSULA DISTRICT TANNER CRAB FISHERY**

EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 4-S-4-12

All waters of the Western Section of the South Peninsula District will close to Tanner crab fishing at 5:59 p.m. on Friday, January 20, 2012. Catch reports indicate total harvest will approach survey estimates of allowable Tanner crab surplus. Further harvest is not warranted to protect the long-term health of Tanner crab in this area.

All pots within the closed area must be unbaited and doors open at the time of the closure. Unbaited pots may be stored in the closed area in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours. After 72 hours, all pots remaining in the closed area must be removed from the water or placed in waters shallower than 25 fathoms. Vessels operators are required to deliver crab harvested from the Western Section prior to targeting Tanner crab in the Eastern Section of the South Peninsula District.