

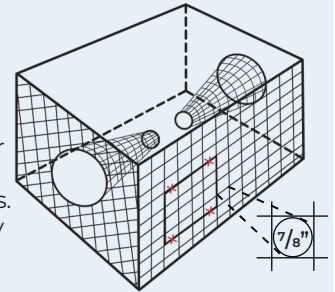
# SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

## SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA



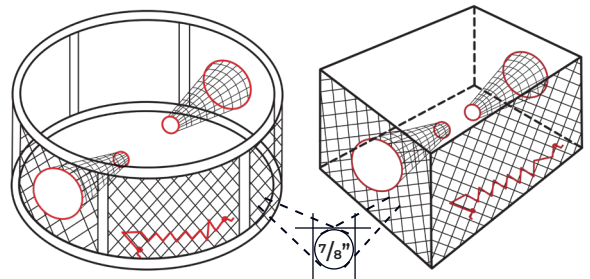
### RIGID MESH POTS:

- Pots must have at least one opening in a sidewall, which may include the tunnel.
- The opening of a king crab or Tanner crab pot must be equal to or exceed a 12 inch by 8 inch rectangle, and the opening of a shrimp pot must be at least the size of a 4 inch square.
- The opening may be covered with a single panel secured to pot with no more than four single loops of 100% untreated cotton twine no larger than 30-thread.
- Each loop may only contain one knot and cannot be tied or looped around the web bars.
- The panel must be attached so that when the twine degrades, the panel will drop away from the opening.
- The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and parallel to it.



### SHRIMP POT REQUIREMENT:

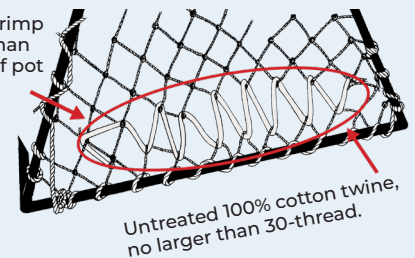
- Two vertical sides of all shrimp pots must be made entirely of webbing big enough to allow a  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch round wooden dowel to go through without stretching or otherwise deforming the opening.
- The two vertical sides must touch each other and cannot be covered by anything.
- The other two sides, top, bottom, and tunnels may be composed of any material.
- The  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch size allows undersize and juvenile shrimp to escape.
- A shrimp pot with no definable sides, such as a round pot, must have 50% of its vertical surface area covered with  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch webbing. The other 50% of its vertical sides, as well as its top and bottom, may be composed of any material.



### NET MESH POTS:

- Pots must have a sidewall, which may include a tunnel, with an opening equal to or exceeding 18 inches in length for crab pots and 6 inches or greater in length for shrimp pots.
- The opening must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated 100% cotton twine no larger than 30-thread.
- The cotton twine may be knotted at each end only.
- The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and parallel to it. The cotton twine cannot be tied or looped around the web bars.

Opening at least 18" long (6" for shrimp pots) - no more than 6" from bottom of pot and parallel to it.



**BUOY REQUIREMENTS:** A keg or buoy attached to a pot must be plainly and legibly inscribed with the fisher's first initial, last name, home address, and the name or AK boat registration number of the vessel used to operate the pot. Adding your phone number is also recommended. In Cook Inlet (including North Gulf Coast) waters, no portion of the line attaching the buoy to the crab pot may float on the surface. The line connecting the main buoy to auxiliary buoys may float.

**ESCAPEMENT MECHANISMS REQUIRED:** All pots must have a biodegradable escape mechanism. In addition, crab pots must contain two escape rings no less than  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter.

**LEGAL GEAR:** Clams may be taken only with rakes, shovels, manually operated clam guns, or by hand. Shrimp may be taken only with pots. Crab may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless hand lines.

**LICENSE:** A valid sport fishing license, PID or DV card is required and must be in your possession when harvesting and/or transporting shellfish for sport or personal use.

**LIMITS:** Sport fishing bag and possession limits given here for shellfish are not in addition to those allowed under subsistence or personal use fishing regulations. Once a bag limit is removed from a pot, that pot may not be returned to the water containing any live crab.

**MINIMUM SIZE:** No person may take or possess shellfish smaller than the legal size.

**MUTILATION OR DISFIGUREMENT PROHIBITED:** No one may mutilate or otherwise disfigure a crab in any manner that prevents determination of its sex and/or minimum size restrictions until it has been processed or prepared for consumption. Only whole crab, cooked or uncooked, may be taken off a vessel.

**PERMITS REQUIRED:** A shellfish harvest permit is required and must be in your possession when taking shrimp in Prince William Sound and the North Gulf Coast, and crab in Cook Inlet, North Gulf Coast, and Prince William Sound.

**SHELLFISH POT TAMPERING PROHIBITED:** It is illegal to disturb, tamper with, or pull another angler's pots without prior permission of the pot's owner.