Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

March 21, 2017
Substitute Language for Proposal 252

5 AAC 39.645 (e) and 5 AAC 39.645 (d)(4)(D)(i) is amended to read:

5 AAC 39.645. Shellfish onboard observer program.

…

(e) In addition to the permit requirements in 5 AAC 34.055 and 5 AAC 35.055, the permit for a vessel that participates in a Tanner crab, red king crab, blue king crab, or golden king crab fishery must require that an observer, approved by the department [and provided by the permittee,] be briefed by the department for the fishery in which the vessel participates and that the observer be on board the vessel before the vessel obtains a tank inspection, before the vessel takes crab, before the start of and during all processing operations, except when a vessel has checked out of a fishery under 5 AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(G) and has notified the department of its intent to deploy gear consistent with 5 AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(D). For the purpose of 5 AAC 34.055 and 5 AAC 35.055, and 5 AAC 39.140, the observer is a representative of the department. All information collected by the observer is confidential property of the department. The department shall develop guidelines for approval of observers, including training requirements, conflict-of-interests standards, data collection schedules and standards, record keeping and reporting requirements, and other criteria needed to ensure accurate and objective reporting.

…

(d) Based on the findings in (a) – (c) of this section, the department shall institute a mandatory onboard observer program, as follows:

…

(4) to meet catcher vessel observer coverage requirements, a department approved crab fishery onboard observer must be on board the catcher vessel and acting in the capacity of a crab onboard observer in the following registration areas during the following prescribed time periods:

…

(D) for Tanner crab Registration Area J (Westward), Bering Sea District,

(i) during harvest of 30 percent of the total C. opilio (snow crab) weight harvested by each catcher vessel while operating fishing gear, during each registration year, or during a period when the department randomly selects between 30 percent and 100 percent of the catcher vessels harvesting Bering Sea C. opilio (snow crab) to carry onboard observers for 100 percent of the fishing time of each selected catcher vessel; and

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