



ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues
 March 20–24, 2017

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

This summary is informational only. The actions indicated below will have legal effects in regulations that provide the sole legal action of the board.

Board Members Present

John Jensen, Chair
 Orville Huntington
 Al Cain
 Israel Payton

Sue Jeffrey, Vice Chair
 Reed Morisky
 Robert Ruffner

C=Carried, F=Failed, C/A=Carried as Amended, F/A=Failed as Amended, N/A=No Action

Action	#	Proposal	Audio Tracking Info*
GROUP 1: Bering Sea King and Tanner Crab, Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab (15 proposals)			
<i>Bering Sea King and Tanner Crab (12 Proposals)</i>			
C/A (7-0)	250	Allow full retention of legal male <i>C. opilio</i> crab incidentally harvested by vessels targeting <i>C. bairdi</i> crab in the Bering Sea District west of 166° W. long. (<i>Substituted with language in RC 39.</i>)	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 0:00:42
F (1-6)	251	Change season closure date from March 31 to April 15 for <i>C. bairdi</i> Tanner crab in waters west of 166° W longitude.	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 0:28:36
C/A (7-0)	252	Allow a vessel carrying an onboard observer to rig, bait, and set gear for a new crab fishery before fully exiting the crab fishery for which the observer was briefed. (<i>Substituted with language in RC 26.</i>)	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 0:46:46
C/A (7-0)	253	Allow a vessel participating in a rationalized crab fishery to rig, bait, and set pot gear for a new crab fishery prior to fully exiting the crab fishery for which the vessel is validly registered. (<i>Substituted with language in RC 27.</i>)	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:00:04
N/A (7-0)	254	Amend the description of a hybrid Tanner crab so that hybrid designation is dependent upon the target Tanner crab fishery for which the vessel is validly registered. (<i>No action taken based on the proposer's request in RC 15 to</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:02:46



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		<i>withdraw the proposal.)</i>	
N/A (7-0)	255	All full retention of incidentally taken legal male <i>C. opilio</i> Tanner crab when a vessel is participating in the <i>C. bairdi</i> Tanner crab fishery east of 166° W. longitude. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 250.)</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:03:35
F (0-7)	256	Allow full retention of legal male <i>C. bairdi</i> Tanner crab incidentally harvested by vessels targeting Bristol Bay red king crab.	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:04:35
C/A (7-0)	257	Extend the Bering Sea District eastern boundary for retention of <i>C. opilio</i> crab from 166° W. longitude to 165° W. longitude. <i>(The board amended the proposal by adding language in RC 40.)</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:18:56
N/A (7-0)	258	Extend the Bering Sea District eastern boundary for retention of <i>C. bairdi</i> crab from 163° W. longitude to 162° W. longitude. <i>(No action taken based on the proposer's request in RC 14 to withdraw the proposal.)</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:27:30
C (7-0)	259	Specify that escape rings and mesh are placed on a vertical plane or side of the pot in the Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab fishery.	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:28:06
C (7-0)	260	Adopt by reference the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Chionoecetes Crab Quick Reference Guide for <i>C. bairdi</i> and <i>C. opilio</i> Tanner crab.	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:33:02
N/A (7-0)	261	Allow <i>C. opilio</i> Tanner crab bycatch retention up to five percent in the Bering Sea District <i>C. bairdi</i> Tanner crab fishery, east of 166° W. longitude. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 250.)</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:43:21
<i>Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab (3 Proposals)</i>			
N/A (7-0)	262	Develop a management plan for the Western Aleutian District Tanner crab fishery. <i>(No action taken based on the proposer's request in PC 1 to withdraw the proposal.)</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:45:16
N/A (7-0)	263	Reduce onboard observer coverage rates and change observer deployment periods for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery. <i>(No action taken based on the proposer's request in PC 3 to withdraw the proposal.)</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:46:34
C (7-0)	264	Repeal provisions allowing concurrent harvest of red and golden king crab in Registration Area O.	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:47:05
GROUP 2: Cook Inlet Tanner Crab, Prince William Sound Tanner Crab (9 proposals)			
<i>Cook Inlet Tanner Crab (2 Proposals)</i>			
C/A (7-0)	265	Amend the noncommercial harvest strategy for Tanner crab in the Cook Inlet Area to allow limited fishing opportunity in the absence of abundance estimates. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 44 and further amended to set the minimum carapace size at 4.5 inches for all uses.)</i>	BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 1:50:37



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N/A (7-0)	266	Allow a personal use fishery for Tanner Crab in Lower Cook Inlet with a bag limit of two crabs per person per day, pot limit of two pots per person and unspecified size restrictions on pots and season limits. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 265.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 2:25:38</i>
Prince William Sound King and Tanner Crab (7 Proposals)			
C/A (7-0)	267	Create a harvest strategy and amend regulations for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound specifying conditions under which the commercial fishery may occur and reduce the legal size limit in the subsistence Tanner crab fishery. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 37.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 2:26:28</i>
C/A (7-0)	268	Create a harvest strategy and amend regulations for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound specifying conditions under which the commercial fishery may occur and establish a sport fishery for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 50.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 3:13:45</i> <i>BOF Meeting 03-24-17: 0:18:35</i>
N/A (7-0)	269	Allow a commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Western District of Prince William Sound. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 271.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:00:06</i>
N/A (7-0)	270	Allow a commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Eastern District of Prince William Sound. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 271.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:00:56</i>
C/A (7-0)	271	Allow the department to issue commissioner permits for king and Tanner crab fisheries in Prince William Sound that have been closed for more than four years. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 47.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 3:39:05</i>
N/A (7-0)	272	Reduce the legal male size limit in the Prince William Sound Subsistence Tanner crab fishery to five and three tenths inches or greater carapace width. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 271.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:01:24</i>
C/A (7-0)	273	Increase the Prince William Sound subsistence Tanner crab daily bag and possession limit to 25 male Tanner crab. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 34.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:01:57</i>
GROUP 3: Regulatory Alignment, Arctic -Yukon-Kuskokwim, Kodiak and South Peninsula Tanner Crab, Chignik Pacific Cod, Kuskokwim and Aleutian Islands Area Subsistence Salmon (12 proposals)			
Regulatory Alignment (3 Proposals)			
C (7-0)	242	Correct an error in regulation to accurately specify the percentage of mature male blue king crab used in setting total allowable catch.	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:10:00</i>
C/A (7-0)	243	Reduce the sport fishery minimum legal size limit for Tanner crab in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Island Area from 5.5 inches carapace width to 4.8 inches carapace width. <i>(The board amended the proposal to apply the</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:12:33</i>



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		<i>changing in carapace size to the subsistence fishery as well.)</i>	
C/A (7-0)	244	Align sport crab fishery regulations and repeal methods and means and general provisions for shellfish for the North Slope, Kuskokwim–Goodnews, and Yukon areas. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 17.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:16:20</i>
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (2 Proposals)			
F (0-7)	245	Extend the closure line north for the Norton Sound Section commercial king crab fishery from 64° 10' N. latitude to 64° 15' N. latitude.	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:19:41</i>
C/A (7-0)	246	Add a definition for crab rakes and allow crab rakes as lawful subsistence shellfish gear north of Cape Newenham. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 29.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:26:26</i>
Kodiak and South Peninsula Tanner Crab (3 Proposals)			
C/A (7-0)	247	Repeal regulations that prohibit sport fishing for king or Tanner crab in the Kodiak Area 14 days before and after a commercial king or Tanner crab fishery. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 21.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:32:07</i>
C/A (7-0)	248	Repeal regulations that prohibit sport fishing for king or Tanner crab in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area 14 days before and after a commercial king or Tanner crab fishery. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 22.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:35:21</i>
C/A <i>(4-3 initial vote: 6-1 on reconsideration)</i>	249	Establish 20 pot gear limit for vessels participating in the South Peninsula District commercial Tanner crab fishery and cap the total number of pots allowed in the fishery at 1000 pots. <i>(This proposal was initially passed substituted with language in RC 20. A later reconsideration deleted sections 5 AAC 35.525(c)(3)(A)(D) and 5 AAC 35.506(e)(7).)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-23-17: 4:37:55</i> <i>BOF Meeting 03-24-17: 0:00:18</i>
Chignik Pacific Cod (1 Proposal)			
C (7-0)	274	Reduce waters closed for the protection of Steller sea lions during the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area.	<i>BOF Meeting 03-24-17: 0:30:58</i>
Kuskokwim and Aleutian Islands Area Subsistence Salmon (3 Proposals)			
F (0-7)	275	Create a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River.	<i>BOF Meeting 03-24-17: 0:41:19</i>
C/A (7-0)	276	Establish a permit system for regulating the king salmon subsistence fishery during times of low king salmon runs. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 46.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 03-24-17: 0:57:10</i>
C (7-0)	280	Decrease number of sockeye salmon that may be retained in the subsistence salmon fishery on Front Beach in the Unalaska Bay District.	<i>BOF Meeting 03-24-17: 1:26:32</i>



* The audio tracking information correlates with the meeting audio available at the bottom of each meeting page. The entry “bof_worksession_10_15_14” indicates the meeting day. The start time indicates when board discussion on the proposal began according to the meeting audio.

Miscellaneous Business

1. **2017 Advisory Committee Excellence in Service Awards** – The board recognized the AC Excellence in Service award winners for 2017. These winners were Percy Ballot, Northern Seward Peninsula, Ray Collins, McGrath, Raymond Stoney, Lower Kobuk, David Osterback, Sand Point, and Virgil Umphenour, Fairbanks. *BOF Meeting*
03-24-17:
1:55:43

2. **Continuation of the Crab Observer Oversight Task Force** – The board reapproved the continuation of the Crab Observer Oversight Task Force through 2020. RC33 provides the continuation in 2017-284-FB which lists current task force members. *BOF Meeting*
03-24-17:
1:57:30

3. **Findings on Prince William Sound Tanner Crab Commissioner Permit for Observer Coverage** – The board approved 2017-285-FB, findings developed by the board during its passage of Proposal 271. Proposal 271 authorizes the use of onboard observers during the fishery. Alaska Statute 16.05.251(a)(13) requires written findings when the board adopts regulations requiring onboard observers. A copy of 2017-285-FB is in RC51. *BOF Meeting*
03-24-17:
1:58:36

4. **Emergency Petitions**
 - a. ADF&G/Southeast Gillnet Mesh Specifications for District 6 (RC19): The board found the petition as an emergency (7-0) and approved the regulatory change provided in RC19 (6-0). The board did not delegate authority to the department to make the regulatory change permanent. (*Member Jensen was recused from voting based on a potential ethics conflict.*) *BOF Meeting*
03-24-17:
1:59:20

5. **House Bill 87 Conflict of Interest BOG/BOF** – The board discussed opinions on the pending House Bill 87, a bill to modify the current ethics determination process. *BOF Meeting*
03-24-17:
2:45:33

6. **Request for Enumeration on the Kasilof River** – The board approved sending a letter to the Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries seeking the department consider developing a program to enumerate king salmon on the Kasilof River. A draft of the letter is under RC42. *BOF Meeting*
03-24-17:
3:00:40

7. **Bering Sea Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy Planning** – The board approved a board generated proposal based on the principles outlined in RC35. The department will prepare the proposal prior to the board meeting. The board also set the time for this meeting for the week of May 15, depending on board member and venue availability. *BOF Meeting*
03-24-17:
3:11:11