

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-7-26-16

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, June 30, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 15, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, March 15, 2016, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Tanner crab season in Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast waters.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. (a)(11), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(2)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 15, 2016, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, March 15, 2017:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(a)(11) Tanner crab: no open season; may not be retained or possessed;

(b)(1)(B) Tanner crab: in Kachemak Bay, east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, no open season; may not be retained or possessed;

(b)(2)(D) Tanner crab: in Kachemak Bay, east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, no open season; may not be retained or possessed;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

5 AAC 35.408 *Registration Area H Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy* establishes threshold abundance levels of legal male Tanner crab above which noncommercial (personal use, subsistence, and sport) fisheries may open. To open noncommercial fisheries, the plan requires the recent three-year average of legal male Tanner crab estimated from department surveys to be greater than 100,000 crab and 50,000 crab in Kachemak and Kamishak Bays, respectively. Additionally, the harvest strategy also closes that waters east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point (Kachemak Bay) if the Kachemak Bay survey estimate of legal male Tanner crab abundance is less than 50,000 crab in any given year, and closes waters west of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point if the Kamishak Bay survey estimate of legal male Tanner crab abundance is less than 40,000 in any given year. If noncommercial fisheries are closed west of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, 5 AAC 35.410 also closes noncommercial fisheries in the North Gulf Coast and Resurrection Bay.

Surveys were last conducted in 2013 for Kachemak Bay and 2012 for Kamishak Bay. Survey results of legal male Tanner crab were well below that which is needed to open the fisheries. Since no surveys will be conducted in 2016, all areas of Cook Inlet and the North Gulf Coast will remain closed for the 2016 – 2017 season.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.