

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-7-28-17

Issued at: Homer, Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 15, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday,
February 28, 2018, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens a limited Tanner crab sport fishery in the marine waters of Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast.

REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 35.408 (d) the provisions of 5 AAC 58.022 (a)(11), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(2)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 15, 2017, through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, February 28, 2018:

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: may be taken as follows:

(A) only from October 1 through February 28;

(B) male Tanner crab may be taken from October 1 through February 28; the bag and possession limit of three male crab; minimum size is four and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell, including spines; no more than one pot per person with a maximum of one pot per vessel; a shellfish harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.026;

(b)(1) in waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.):

(B) Tanner crab: in Kachemak Bay, east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, male Tanner crab may be taken from October 1 through February 28; the bag and possession limit of three male crab; minimum size is four and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell, including spines; no more than one pot per person with a maximum of one pot per vessel; a shellfish harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.026;

(b)(2) in the waters of Cook Inlet south of the latitude of the Anchor Point Light at 59° 46.14' N. lat., including all of Kachemak Bay, to the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. lat., and east to the longitude of Gore Point at 150° 57.85' W. long.:

(D) Tanner crab: in Kachemak Bay east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, male Tanner crab may be taken from October 1 through February 28; the bag and possession limit of three male crab; minimum size is four and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell, including spines; no more than one pot per person with a maximum of one pot per vessel; a shellfish harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.026;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist III

JUSTIFICATION:

5 AAC 35.408 *Registration Area H Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy* establishes threshold abundance levels of legal male Tanner crab above which noncommercial (sport and subsistence) fisheries may open when trawl surveys indicate abundance levels exceed established thresholds. Trawl surveys were last conducted in 2013 for Kachemak Bay and 2012 for Kamishak Bay. Survey results of legal male Tanner crab were below the thresholds needed to prosecute a noncommercial fishery July 15 through March 15 as described in regulation, so the fisheries have remained closed consistent with the harvest strategy.

The harvest strategy also includes a provision to open a limited sport and subsistence fishery in the absence of a trawl survey. This fishery will be open October 1 through February 28 with the more conservative pot and bag limits described in this emergency order.

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.