

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-7-51-19

Issued at: Homer, Friday, August 30, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, September 1, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
March 15, 2020, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order establishes the open season for the Kachemak Bay Tanner crab sport fishery as October 1 through December 31, 2019, and January 15 through March 15, 2020.

REGULATION:

Consistent with 5 AAC 35.408 (d), the provisions of 5 AAC 58.022 (a)(11)(A) and (B), 5 AAC 58.022 (b)(1)(B), and 5 AAC 58.022 (b)(2)(D) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, September 1, 2019, through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, March 15, 2020:

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) in Kachemak Bay east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, from October 1 through December 31 and from January 15 through March 15; bag and possession limit of five male crab; minimum size is four and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell, including spines; no more than two pots per person with a maximum of two pots per vessel; a shellfish harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.026;

(B) in Cook Inlet west of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point and south 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. from October 1 through the last day of February; 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, the open season is from October 1 through December 31 and from January 15 through March 15.

(b)(2) in the waters of Cook Inlet south of the latitude of Bluff Point at 59° 40.00' 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, the open season is from October 1 through December 31 and from January 15 through March 15;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mike Booz
Lower Cook Inlet Sport Fish Area Manager

JUSTIFICATION:

5 AAC 35.408 *Registration Area H Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy* establishes two noncommercial (sport and subsistence) Tanner crab fisheries in Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay waters. A restrictive noncommercial fishery occurs in the absence of an annual trawl survey or when trawl survey Tanner crab abundance estimates are below thresholds specified in regulation. In Kachemak Bay, the recent three-year (2017-2019) legal male abundance average is 207,109 crab, which triggers a less restrictive noncommercial fishery. The less restrictive fishery has a longer season, an increased bag/possession limit, and has a higher pot limit. A guideline harvest level is established for the less restrictive noncommercial fishery and may not exceed 10 percent of the three-year average abundance of legal male crab in the Kachemak Bay trawl survey. In the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 seasons in which the more restrictive noncommercial fishery occurred, the annual harvest averaged approximately 8,500 crab. To ensure that the 2019-2020 noncommercial fishery harvest stays within the guideline harvest level of 20,710 crab, the season will begin October 1, 2019, instead of September 1, and continue through December 31, with a closure between January 1 – 14, 2020, and open January 15 through March 15.

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, Alaska 99518, (907) 267-2218.