

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-TC-6-17-22

Issued at: Anchorage, Thursday, February 24, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order defines the open season and open area for the 2022 Prince William Sound (PWS) Tanner crab sport fishery. The PWS Tanner crab sport fishery only opens when the commercial fishery is opened (5 AAC 35.308 (5)). The PWS commercial Tanner crab fishery is opening by emergency order in the Northeastern District at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The Tanner crab sport fishery will be open from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, March 31. The Tanner crab sport fishery will only be open in the Northeastern District of the PWS Management Area.

The Northeastern District is defined as all waters north of a line at 60° 30' N. lat., from a point on Hawkins Island at 146° 19.50' W. long., west to 147° 40' W. long., and east of 147° 40' W. long., and south of 60° 48.50' N. lat., and including waters south of a line from the southeastern point of Bligh Island at 60° 48.80' N. lat., 146° 43.30' W. long., to Bidarka Point at 60° 49.14' N. lat., 146° 38.45' W. long., and waters west of Salmo Point at 145° 45.70' W. long., north of Hawkins Island.

No more than two pots per person with a maximum of two pots per vessel are allowed and each pot must have no less than two escape rings of no less than four and three-eighths inch inside diameter; a pot may not have any portion of the line attaching the pot to a buoy floating on the surface of the water at any time, except that portion of the line connecting the main buoy to any auxiliary buoy or buoys. The Tanner crab bag and possession limit is twelve male crab. Each individual permit holder may only take or possess male tanner crab that are five inches or greater in carapace width with only one permit holder per vessel.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.022 (b)(3)(B) are superseded by this emergency order and the provisions of 5 AAC 55.022 (b)(3)(F) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2022:

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 55.023, or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means that apply to sport fishing for shellfish in the Prince William Sound Area:

(3) Tanner crab may be taken as follows:

(B) may be taken from March 1 – March 31; only male Tanner crab five inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed; the bag and possession limit is twelve male Tanner crab;

(F) the Tanner crab sport fishery will only occur in the Northeastern District as described in 5 AAC 35.305(a);

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Jay Baumer
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The PWS Tanner crab sport fishery is opened by regulation when the PWS Tanner crab commercial fishery is opened. The commercial fishery opens when the estimated crab population exceeds the harvest threshold. The harvest threshold is based on mature male Tanner crab population estimates generated from an ADF&G trawl survey. In the Northeastern District of PWS the Tanner crab abundance exceeded the threshold and a guideline harvest level (GHL) of up to 20% of legal Tanner crab is provided. The 2022 GHL for the Northeastern District is 61,800 lb. of legal male Tanner crab (5.0 inches or greater in carapace width). Therefore, it is warranted to open the Tanner crab commercial and sport fisheries in the Northeastern District of PWS.

DISTRIBUTION:

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