

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY UPDATE
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA
WESTERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ONLY**

Commissioner's Permits are available through the Homer ADF&G office to participate in a Tanner crab fishery in the Western and Eastern Districts (5 AAC 35.305 (b) and (c); Figure 1) of the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; 5 AAC 35.311).

In order to apply, a valid 2019 CFEC interim-use permit card for Prince William Sound Tanner crab (T09E or T91E) is required. The vessel operator/CFEC permit holder must have an established market for all Tanner crab.

There is a registration deadline of February 15 at 5:00 p.m. set as a condition necessary for conservation and management purposes under 5 AAC 35.311 (c)(5). Permits will not be issued after this date.

PWS is a superexclusive registration area for Tanner crab (5 AAC 35.306 (a)) and this applies to the Commissioner's Permit fishery (5 AAC 35.311 (e)). A vessel validly registered for a superexclusive registration area may not be used to take Tanner crab in any other registration area during that registration year (5 AAC 35.005 (c)). An operator of a Tanner crab vessel validly registered for a superexclusive registration area may not operate any other Tanner crab vessel registered for any other superexclusive registration area in the same registration year (5 AAC 35.020 (h)).

The season will open on March 1 with an initial fishing period from 12:01 a.m. March 1 to 11:59 p.m. March 8, unless closed earlier due to conservation measures. Subsequent fishing periods may be opened by emergency order depending on fishery performance, and may include area and gear adjustments, with a season closure date no later than March 31.

A daily call-in is required by 3:00 p.m. Information to be reported and phone number to call is included on the permit. Failure to report may result in revocation of the commissioner's permit.

A maximum of 25 pots may be operated by each vessel; this is the maximum number of pots in aggregate that may be deployed and onboard the vessel at any time. Pot tags are required and may be acquired through the Homer or Cordova ADF&G offices (or mailed to permit holder). Additional gear restrictions may be defined as necessary and, depending on the number of permits issued, the pot limit may be adjusted. Gear inspections may be scheduled through the Homer office prior to the fishery.

Unless otherwise specified in the permit, all provisions of Tanner crab regulations in 5 AAC Chapter 35 must be adhered to, including size limits for Registration Area E (5 AAC 35.320), lawful gear specifications (5 AAC 35.325 (a) and (c)), and pot marking requirements (5 AAC 35.326). Only male Tanner crab five inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed.

Vessels must check-in with ADF&G staff in Homer prior to each fishing trip and allow adequate time for deployment of ADF&G personnel acting as onboard observers when required. The vessel must have a current United States Coast Guard safety decal and inspected life raft that can accommodate all persons onboard the vessel. Costs associated with accommodating an observer will be the responsibility of the vessel. Log sheets are required and must be submitted with each corresponding fish ticket at the time of landing.

Please contact the Homer office to apply for this Commissioner's Permit fishery or with questions: (907) 235-8191 during regular business hours.

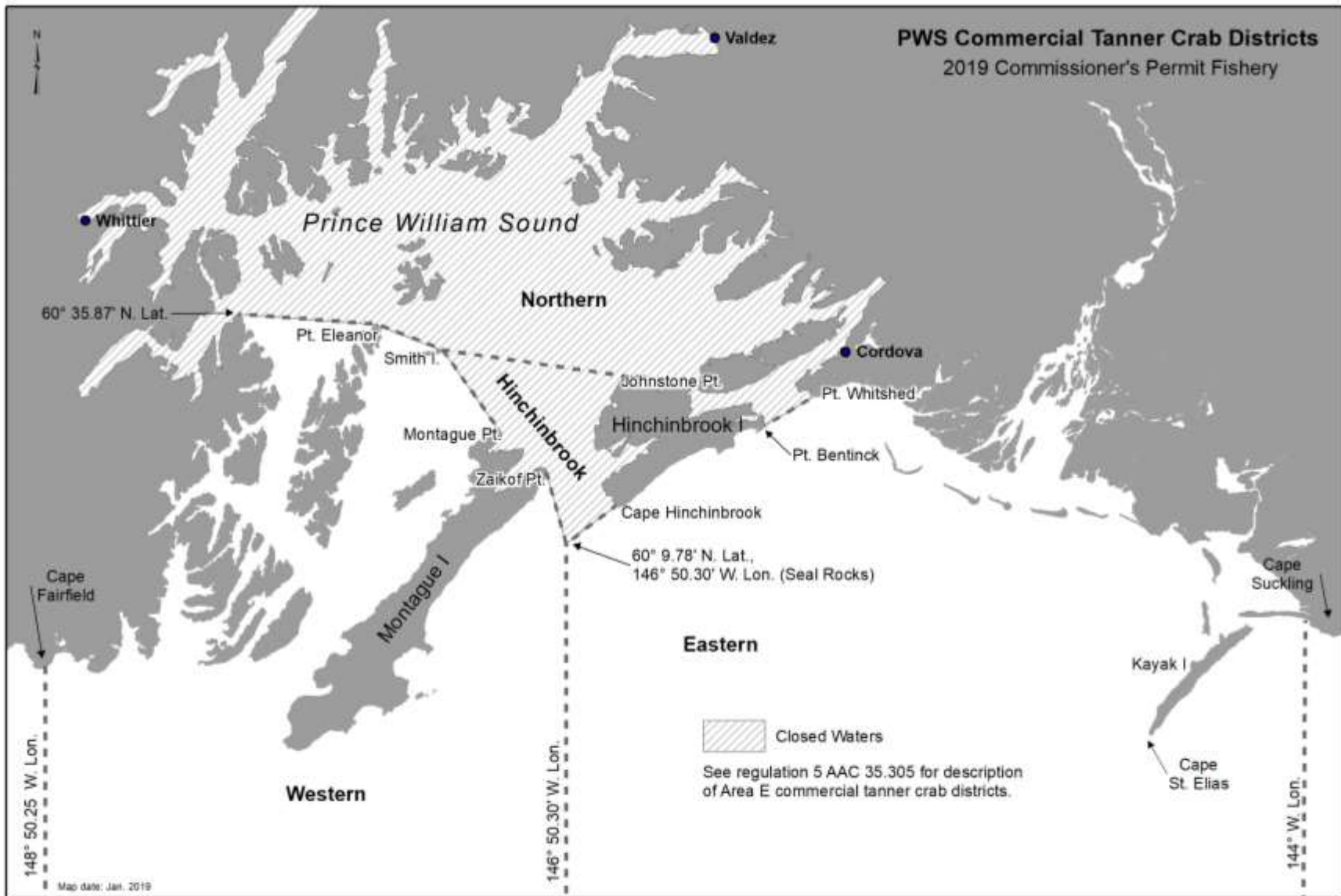


Figure 1. Prince William Sound Area Commercial Tanner Crab Districts; Commissioner's Permit fishery open in Western and Eastern Districts.

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