



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: January 10, 2025

CONTACT: Martin Schuster or Andy Pollak
Shellfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 235-8191

Prince William Sound Area Tanner Crab Test Fishery Opportunity

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) is soliciting bids to contract vessels to conduct a test fishery using pot gear to harvest up to 25,000 lb of Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS). ADF&G seeks to gather information on the current health of the PWS Tanner crab stock in areas outside and within the ADF&G trawl survey areas. Specifically, the purpose of the test fishery is to collect information on legal male catch rate, male size composition, and distribution of Tanner crab within each test fishery Lot.

The PWS Tanner crab Test Fishery will be conducted between February 24 and April 6, 2025. The minimum bid price is \$0.80 per pound of Tanner crab harvested. Bids will be accepted for 5 individual Lots (Lots A-E) up to a maximum harvest level of 5,000 lb of Tanner crab each.

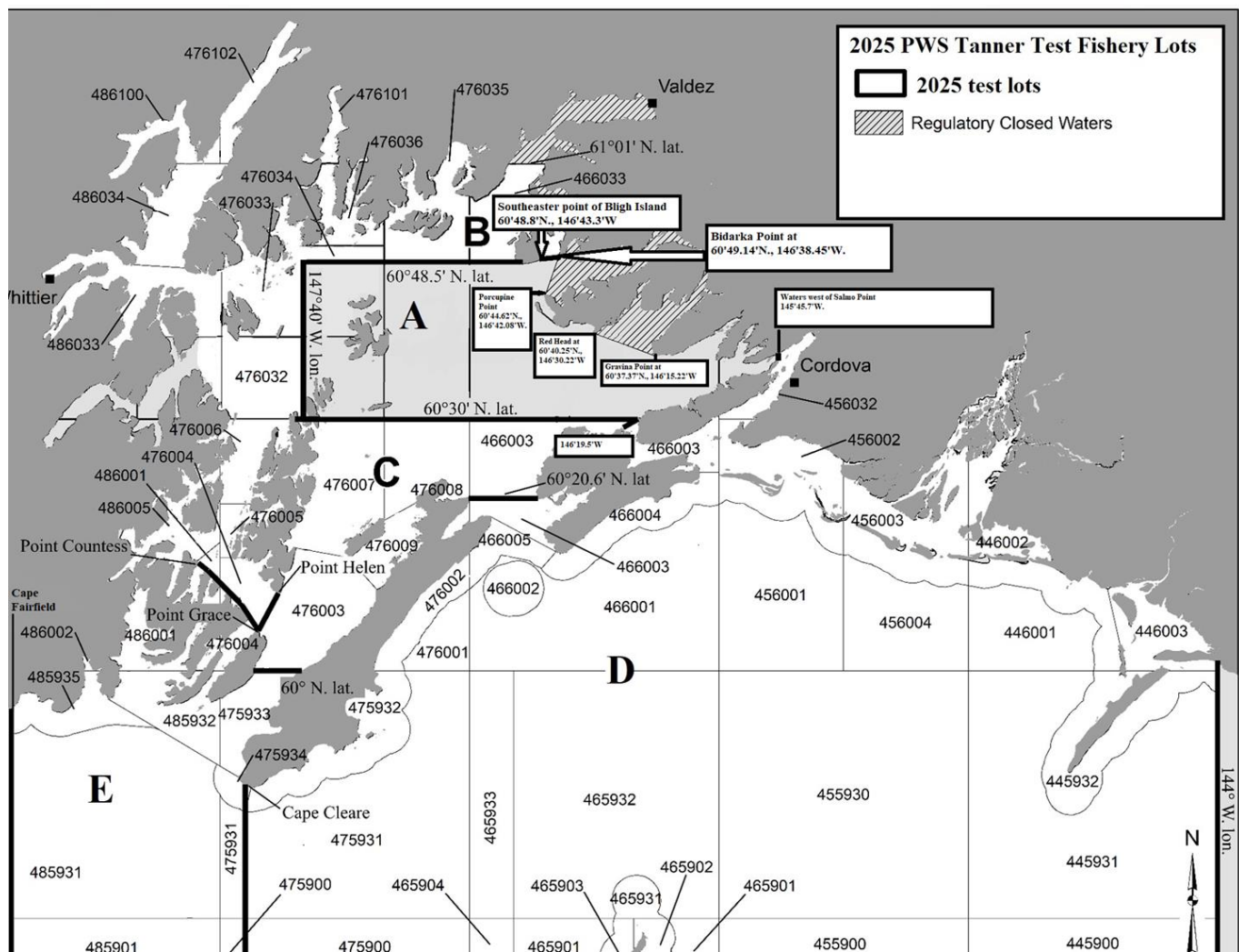
Vessel owners interested in obtaining a request-for-quotation (RFQ) sheet should contact Andy Pollak by phone at 907-235-8191, e-mail andrew.pollak@alaska.gov, or leave a voicemail request for the packet, including contact information, at the Homer office at 907-235-8191.

Bids must be received by 12:00 noon February 10, 2025. See RFQ for submission information.

Lots A-E are in defined areas of PWS with corresponding statistical areas (Figure 1). Within each Lot, 25 mandatory pot locations will be provided prior to fishing begins. Pots must be set within 0.5 nautical miles of these specific locations. The maximum 5,000 lb Tanner crab harvest level for each Lot includes harvest from these mandatory locations. Additional pot locations fished within each Lot will be decided by the vessel operator. There is a maximum gear limit of 60 Tanner crab pots per vessel. The vessel operator is required to have prior commercial Tanner crab fishing experience. Winning bidders will receive Lot packets with specific maps, including latitude and longitude of mandatory pot locations.

Contracts will be awarded to the highest bidder for each Lot. In the event of a bidding tie, the contract will be awarded via random drawing. All costs associated with the test fishery are assumed by the successful bidder. Vessel owners may bid on more than one Lot. Log sheets and daily call-ins are required; all requested information must be reported for each pot location. Vessels must accommodate ADF&G observers upon request therefore, adequate notice must be provided before vessel departure to allow for observer deployment.

All Tanner crab will be landed on the ADF&G Test Fishery permit card and any Tanner crab harvest above the maximum 5,000 lb per Lot will be reported as overage on the ADF&G fish ticket; full Tanner crab exvessel value will be paid for any overage amount to the State of Alaska.



The PWS Tanner Crab Test Fishery will be conducted within the five districts as specified. These district designations were adopted at the December 2021 Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting and repealed at the December 2024 BOF meeting. Regulatory definitions provided below.

5 AAC 35.305. Description of Registration Area E districts

(a) Northeastern District: all waters north of a line at 60° 30' N. lat., from a point on Hawkins Island at 146° 19.50' W. long., east 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.

(b) Central District: all waters north of a line from the west side of Montague Island to the east side of Latouche Island at 60° N. lat., and east of a line from Point Grace at the northernmost tip of Latouche Island at 60° 04.80' N lat., 147° 51' W long., to Point Helen at the southernmost tip of Knight Island at 60° 09.30' N. lat., 147° 46' W. long., and including waters on the east side of Knight Island, and south of a line at 60° 30' N. lat., from Knight Island at 147° 42' W. long., to Hawkins Island at 146° 19.50' W. long., and west of a line from that point on Hawkins Island to a point on Hinchinbrook Island at 60° 28.80' N. lat., and 146° 23' W. long., and north of a line at 60° 20.60' N. lat., from Bear Cape on Hinchinbrook Island to Middle Point on Montague Island.

(c) Southwestern District: all waters east of a line from Cape Fairfield at 148° 50.25' W. long., south to the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. lat., then west to 149° W. long., then south along 149° W. long., and west of a line drawn south from Cape Cleare at 147° 54' W. long., and those waters southwest of a line running from Point Countess at 60° 12.90' N. lat., 148° 05.30' W. long., to Bainbridge Point at 60° 12' N. lat., 148° 03' W. long., to Evans Point at 60° 07.90' N. lat., 147° 54.80' W. long., and to Point Grace at 60° 04.80' N. lat., 147° 51' W long., and including those waters south of the Central District at 60° N. lat.

(d) Southeastern District: all waters west of the longitude of Cape Suckling at 144° W. long., south of the Northeastern and Central districts, and east of the Southwestern District.

(e) Northwestern District: all waters north and west of the Northeastern, Central, and Southwestern Districts.