

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Overview of Kodiak Tanner crab fishery from a community perspective:

- The commercial Tanner crab fishery provides an important source of revenue in the winter and helps to maintain diversified fishing opportunity.
- Recruitment events in the fishery provide for multiple years of harvest opportunity for directed crab fishermen.
- The Kodiak Tanner crab fishery is designed to benefit community-based fishermen and to minimize the impact on crab stocks with pot limits and daylight only fishing.
- Recent Board of Fisheries in March, proposed by Tanner crab fishermen, sought to maintain conservation, safety and equity standards in the fishery.

Overview of community lead efforts to mitigate impacts of the federal groundfish fisheries on GOA Tanner crab:

- Beginning in 2004, AMCC worked hand-in-hand with Kodiak Island fishermen who had concerns about the lack of conservation measures in federal waters of the Gulf of Alaska to address Tanner crab bycatch and the effects of bottom trawl gear on crab habitat.
- AMCC and fishermen produced local knowledge maps highlighting important crab habitat and worked within the federal fishery management process to acquire bycatch information needed to inform future conservation actions.
- There are no protection measures to mitigate the effects of federal groundfish fisheries for GOA Tanner crab stocks.
- In 2010 the North Pacific voted to require 100% observer coverage on NPT vessels and 30% observer coverage on pot cod vessels in order to fish in identified statistical areas until the restructured observer program was implemented. At that time the Council anticipated a year of these higher coverage rates prior to an improved observer program. The [full analysis](#) captures the identified purpose and need and the suite of alternatives.
- Due to delays in implementation of the 100% observer coverage requirement of the action, which was supported by nearly 100 fishermen and the Council, the requirement was never implemented.
- While the restructured program resulted in improved temporal and spatial coverage across groundfish sectors in the Gulf of Alaska, coverage rates for the non-pelagic trawl have decreased since inception of the restructured program and reduced the data necessary to understand impacts to Tanner crab stocks from federal groundfish fisheries in bottom trawl fisheries.
- Important to apply management measures appropriate for different gear types. There is a significant difference in the volume of groundfish landed by the trawl fleet and the pot fleet in the proposed areas of Tanner crab abundance.

Data Requests:

- Review of coverage rates in bottom trawl fisheries since the inception of the restructured observer program. Focus on previously identified areas important to crab and groundfish fisheries associated with high PSC.
- Review of Tanner crab abundance based on ADF&G trawl survey data and estimates of the Tanner crab population for the Eastside section found in the identified areas.
- Review of GOA pelagic trawl estimated time on the bottom.

Proposed mitigation measures:

- Full retention of crab bycatch in all GOA trawl fisheries and EM to monitor compliance.
- Significantly increased observer coverage in bottom trawl fisheries associated with high crab bycatch in previously identified Tanner crab habitat.

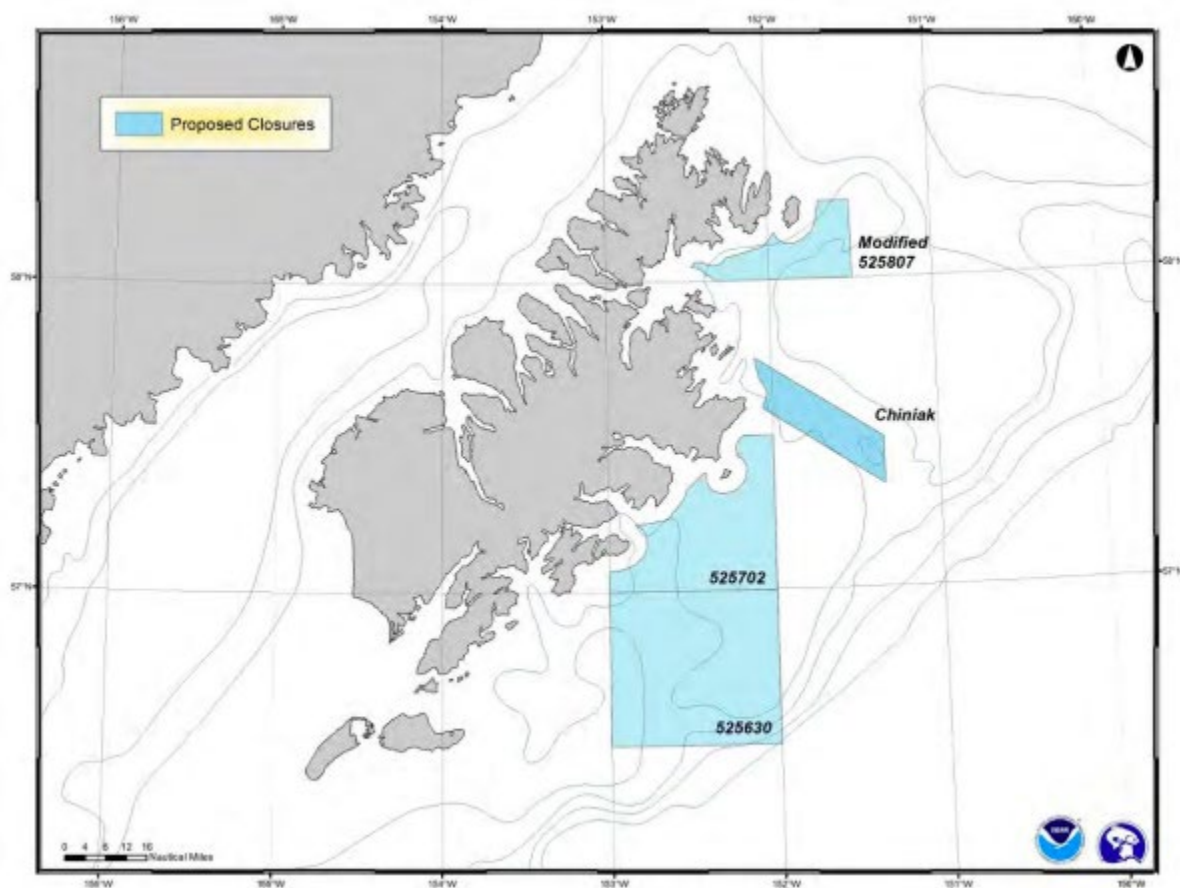


Figure 2 Area closures around Kodiak Island considered in Alternatives 2 and 3 in October 2010. Area Closures for *C. Bairdi* Crab Protections in GOA Groundfish Fisheries (page 4)

