

RC 025

Jeff Thelen

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RE: Support ACR7 Adopt a Harvest Strategy for Prince William Sound Tanner Crab

Dear Board of Fish Members,

I am writing to address the proposal regarding a potential commercial Tanner Crab Fishery in Prince William Sound.

I have participated in the Kodiak Tanner Fishery for several years. It seems probable that a similar structure would be adopted in PWS, ie-small pot limits, fishing restricted to 10 hours/day, etc... with fishing closed in the evening (in Kodiak=6pm), Fishers could report in daily. The communication infrastructure in PWS is constantly improving, with nearly universal coverage of the sound by several cellular carriers. In addition, most vessels now have some form of satellite communication.

This increasingly reliable ability to communicate could be a key part of a well-managed fishery. Vessels participating could provide daily quantitative and qualitative reports of fishing effort and results to the department each evening. With pre-season discussions and education, this flow of information could be enhanced, providing protection against overharvest along with much-needed stock size, health, and distribution.

Given the current budget situation, the communications available may provide a way for many concerns to be addressed in a way that works for all concerned.

I support the adoption of a harvest strategy for a small commercial Tanner Fishery in Prince William Sound. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Thelen