

## **PROPOSAL 53**

**5 AAC 32.126. Dungeness crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 35.126. Tanner crab gear marking requirements for Registration Area A.**

Clarify regulations related to the sale of buoy tags to commercial Dungeness crab fishery permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 32.126(b) is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The **permit holder**, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags. Replacement of lost tags during a season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] submits a sworn statement or affidavit describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags. Tags shall be renewed annually at the time of registration before each fishing season.

5 AAC 34.126 is amended to read:

**(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.051(c), identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued to the permit holder at the time of vessel registration. The permit holder, or the permit holder's agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags.** [IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 5 AAC 34.051, IN REGISTRATION AREA A, REPLACEMENT] **Replacement** of [IDENTIFICATION] **lost** tags [LOST] during the season is permitted if the [VESSEL OPERATOR] **permit holder** and at least one crewmember submit sworn statements or affidavits, in person, at a department office in Registration Area A, describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags.

**(b) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the golden king crab and Tanner crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.**

5 AAC 35.126 is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The permit holder, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue the tags. Replacement of tags lost during the season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] and at least one crewmember submit sworn statements or affidavits, in person, at **a** [THE] department office **in Registration Area A**, [THAT ISSUED THE TAGS] describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags [TAGS SHALL BE RENEWED ANNUALLY BEFORE EACH FISHING SEASON].

(c) Each Tanner crab ring net must have an identification tag, as specified in (a) of this section.

**(d) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The department has maintained a procedure of selling and associating buoy tags to a permit holder, and not to a specific vessel or CFEC permit card. This allows permit holders to switch vessels mid-season and keep their purchased tags, and also allows permit holders in the Dungeness crab fishery to switch permits and keep some or all of their purchased tags.

Issuing buoy tags to a specific vessel or a specific CFEC permit card creates logistical problems for enforcement and crab management staff, so the exception to issue buoy tags to a specific vessel in cases when multiple CFEC permit holders register a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries would allow the department to use the same approach it uses now for a single individual registering for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries with a single permit that allows the privilege to fish for both species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-104)

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