

PROPOSAL 264

5 AAC 35.510. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area J.

Amend Area J Tanner crab season opening weather delay criteria, as follows:

5 AAC 35.510 is amended to read:

(a) In the Kodiak District,

...

(2) the season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the January 14, 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT] for any section of the Kodiak District, except in the Semidi Island Overlap and Southwest Sections, contains a gale warning, in which case the season opening in all sections of the Kodiak District eligible for a season opening will be delayed 24 hours; if after the initial weather delay, the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT] again contains a gale warning, the season opening in all sections will be delayed an additional 24 hours; the season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until 12:00 noon on January 25, when the season will open regardless of any gale warning in the National Weather Service forecasts; for the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service forecast areas for the sections of the Kodiak District are as follows:

- (A) Northeast Section: **PKZ132** [3B];
- (B) Eastside Section: **PKZ132** [3B];
- (C) Southeast Section: **PKZ132** [3B];
- (D) Westside Section: **PKZ138** [3C];
- (E) North Mainland Section: **PKZ138** [3C];

...

(b) In the Chignik District,

...

(2) the season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the January 14, 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT] contains a gale warning; if after the initial weather delay, the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT] again contains a gale warning, the season opening will be delayed an additional 24 hours; the season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until 12:00 noon on January 25, when the season will open regardless of the National Weather Service marine forecasts; for the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service marine forecast area for the Chignik District is [AREA] **PKZ155**[: COASTAL WATERS SOUTH OF THE ALASKA PENINSULA CASTLE CAPE TO CAPE SARICHEF.]

(c) In South Peninsula District,

...

(2) the season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the January 14, 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT] contains a gale warning; if after the initial weather delay, the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT] again contains a gale warning, the season opening will be delayed an additional 24 hours; the season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until 12:00 noon on January 25, when the season will open regardless of the National

Weather Service marine forecasts; for the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service marine forecast area for the South Peninsula District is [AREA] PKZ155.[: COASTAL WATERS SOUTH OF THE ALASKA PENINSULA CASTLE CAPE TO CAPE SARICHEF.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulations established to delay opening of Area J commercial Tanner crab seasons are based on National Weather Service (NWS) marine weather forecasts. However, existing regulations do not reflect current NWS forecasting practices and forecast areas. Tanner crab seasons in Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula are delayed if a gale warning is forecasted during the 48-hour period beginning the day before the fishery is scheduled to start; however current NWS marine warnings only extend 36 hours beyond the initial forecast. Additionally, marine forecast areas have been redefined since these regulations were established. This proposal aligns weather delay regulations with current NWS forecast areas and practices. The department encourages alternative input from fishery participants on the timing and criteria for weather delay regulations given the constraints of the NWS marine warning forecasting process.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-173)
