

PROPOSAL 267

5 AAC 65.020. Fishing seasons for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Establish season and limits for golden king crab in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(10) is amended to read:

(10) king crab: **the daily bag and possession limit is six golden king crab per person; red king crab may not be retained or possessed; all crab pots use for sport fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period shall have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open; golden king crab may be taken only from June 1 through January 31; only male golden king crab six and one-half inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed.** [NO OPEN SEASON; MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL KING CRAB MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sport fishing for all king crab has been closed in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA), though there is not a conservation concern for golden king crab. While red king crab stocks are low in this area and no commercial effort and only a small subsistence fishery is allowed for them, commercial and subsistence fisheries annually occur for golden king crab. A small sport fishery could be also prosecuted without conservation concern. This proposal would create sport fishing seasons, size and bag limits for the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea waters for golden king crab only and continue to prohibit harvest of red king crab. This would allow anglers to target golden king crab under sport fishing regulations in one of the few areas of the state it could be allowed and where harvest is already taking place in commercial and subsistence fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-154)
