



***Cordova District Fishermen United  
2021 Board of Fisheries  
Prince William Sound Meeting***

**Record Copy: CDFU Groundfish/Shellfish Division**

We would like to suggest substitute language for **proposal 69**

Repeal current harvest strategy for area E Tanner crab and amend commissioners permit regulation to include **all of Area E** in the successful commissioner's permit fishery as follows:

5 AAC 35.308 is repealed

[(A) IF ADEQUATE DATA ARE AVAILABLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTIMATE THE ABUNDANCE OF MALE TANNER CRAB IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA, AND SHALL ESTABLISH A GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR LEGAL MALE TANNER CRAB IF THE CURRENT ESTIMATED ABUNDANCE OF TH IS ABOVE THE MINIMUM STOCK THRESHOLD FOR OPENING A FISHERY.

(B) THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY MAY OPEN ONLY IF THE CURRENT ESTIMATED ABUNDANCE OF TH IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 200,000 CRAB (50 PERCENT OF AH). IF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR THREE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE YEARS, THEN THE ESTIMATED ABUNDANCE OF TH MUST BE GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 200,000 CRAB FOR TWO OR MORE YEARS BEFORE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY MAY OPEN. THE COMMERCIAL GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL WILL BE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR TL MAY NOT EXCEED 15 PERCENT OF AC(TH) IF AC(TH) IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 200,000 CRAB, BUT LESS THAN 300,000 CRAB;

(2) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR TL MAY NOT EXCEED 20 PERCENT OF AC(TH) IF AC(TH) IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 300,000 CRAB, BUT LESS THAN 400,000 CRAB;

(3) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR TL MAY NOT EXCEED 25 PERCENT OF AC(TH), IF AC(TH) IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 400,000 CRAB; AND

(4) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR LEGAL MALE TANNER CRAB MAY BE REDUCED OR THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY CLOSED, IF THE ESTIMATED COMMERCIAL HARVEST WOULD CAUSE THE ESTIMATED ABUNDANCE OF TH TO FALL BELOW THE MINIMUM STOCK THRESHOLD.

(C) IN THIS SECTION,

(1) "TL" MEANS MALE TANNER CRAB THAT ARE 127 MM (5.0 INCHES) OR GREATER IN CARAPACE WIDTH, WHICH IS THE LEGAL SIZE OF TANNER CRAB ALLOWED TO BE RETAINED FOR HARVEST;



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- (2) "TH" MEANS MALE TANNER CRAB THAT ARE 135 MM (5.3 INCHES) OR GREATER IN CARAPACE WIDTH, WHICH WAS THE HISTORICAL LEGAL SIZE OF TANNER CRAB IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA;
- (3) "AH" MEANS THE AVERAGE HISTORICAL ABUNDANCE OF TH; AH IS AN ESTIMATE OF THE BIOMASS THAT WILL PRODUCE MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD;
- (4) "AC(TH)" MEANS THE CURRENT ESTIMATED ABUNDANCE OF TH.
- (5) IF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY OPENS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE SPORT FISHERY WILL OPEN AS PROVIDED IN 5 AAC 55.022(b) (3)]

**Amend to:**

5 AAC 35.311. Commissioner's permits for Tanner crab in Registration Area E

- (a) In **Registration Area E** [THE EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS], male Tanner crab, five inches or greater in carapace width, may be taken only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.
- (b) Only pot gear may be used and no more than 50 Tanner crab pots may be operated from a vessel.
- (c) The permit required in this section
  - (1) may specify season dates;
  - (2) may specify areas of fishing operations by district or by geographic location;
  - (3) may require an onboard observer during all operations;
  - (4) shall require mandatory completion of log sheets provided by the department; log sheets described in this section must
    - (A) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of pots fished, the average depth of each pot fished, and the time gear is deployed and removed from the water of each set;
    - (B) include for the target and each bycatch species the number of fish retained and discarded;
    - (C) be updated within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation;
    - (D) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request;
    - (E) be submitted with the corresponding fish ticket at the time of landing;
  - (5) may set other conditions the commissioner determines are necessary for conservation and management purposes.
- (d) A person may not make a false entry in the log sheets described in this section.
- (e) Registration Area E is a superexclusive registration area for Tanner crab; an operator of a Tanner crab vessel validly registered for a superexclusive registration area may not operate any other Tanner crab vessel registered for any other superexclusive registration area in the same registration year as established under 5 AAC 35.020(h).