

# SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

## SPORT AND PERSONAL USE SOUTHWEST ALASKA



### LEGAL GEAR REQUIREMENTS FOR HARVESTING SHELLFISH

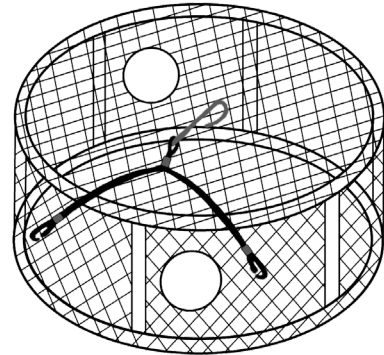
- **Crab** may be taken by hand, or with pots or ring nets; or by diving gear or dip nets; or by hooked or hookless lines, either operated by hand or attached to a pole or rod.
- **Shrimp** may be taken only with pots or ring nets.
- **Clams** may be taken by hand, or with rakes, shovels, or manually operated clam guns.
- No more than 5 pots of any size per person and 10 pots per vessel may be used to take shellfish at any time.
- If a keg or buoy is used on shellfish gear, the first initial and last name and home address of the person operating the pot must be legibly inscribed on the keg or buoy. In addition, the name or AK number of the vessel used to set the gear must also be inscribed on the keg or buoy. Adding your phone number is also recommended
- All pots must include an escape mechanism in accordance with shellfish harvest regulations (5 AAC 39.145). See next section for description.

### SHELLFISH POT GEAR ESCAPE MECHANISMS

#### Summary of 5 AAC 39.145

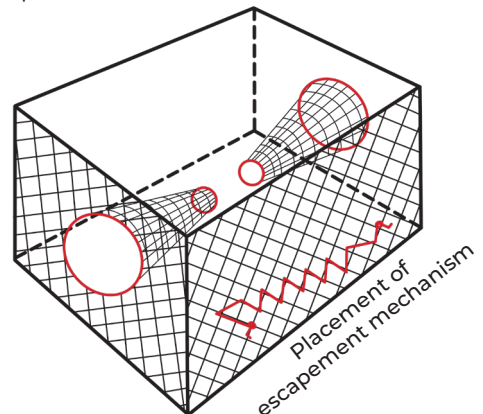
- Pot gear must include escape mechanisms in order to avoid waste of the resource in case the pot is lost.
- A sidewall, which may include the tunnel, must contain an opening at least 18 inches long (6 inches long for shrimp pots). The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot, and must be parallel to the bottom of the pot.
- The opening must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100 percent cotton twine no larger than 30-thread. The cotton twine may be knotted at each end only. The cotton twine may not be looped around or tied to the web bars.

**Exception 1:** Dungeness crab pots may only have the pot lid tie-down straps secured to the pot at one end by a single loop of untreated 100 percent cotton twine no larger than 60-thread.



Dungeness crab pot Exception 1. See text above.

**Exception 2:** Tanner crab and shrimp pots may use 36-thread twine (or smaller) and a galvanic timed-release device (GTR) in their 18-inch (or 6 inch for shrimp pots) opening. The GTR must be designed to release in no more than 30 days in salt water, and must be integral to the length of the twine so that when the device releases, the twine will no longer secure or obstruct the opening of the pot. The twine may be knotted only at each end and at the attachment points on the GTR.



### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Octopus are occasionally caught in crab pots. Octopus are defined as "other shellfish." There are no closed seasons, and no bag or possession limits. Octopus may be taken only by pots or hook and line.
- The captain and crew members of a charter vessel may not deploy, set, or retrieve their own gear in a subsistence, sport, or personal use fishery when that vessel is being chartered.
- An owner, operator, or employee of a lodge, charter vessel, or other enterprise that furnishes food, lodging, or sport fishing guide services may not furnish to a client or guest of that enterprise, subsistence-, sport-, or personal use-caught shellfish, unless the shellfish:
  1. Has been taken with gear deployed and retrieved by the client or guest;
  2. Has been taken with gear that has been marked with the client's or guest's name and address; and
  3. Is to be consumed by the client or guest or is consumed in the presence of the client or guest.

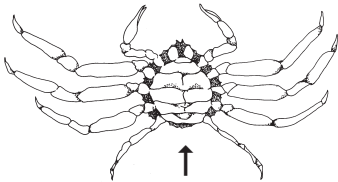
# SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

## CRAB ID AND MEASUREMENTS

### TANNER CRAB

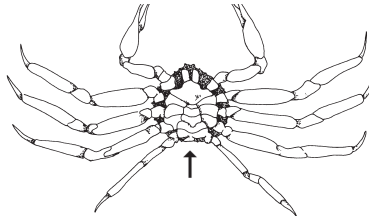
Minimum size 5½ inches

**FEMALE**  
**NO HARVEST ALLOWED**

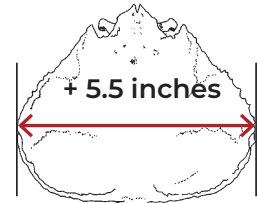


Wide abdominal flap covers most of underside (females usually smaller than 5½ inches)

**MALE**



Narrow abdominal flap

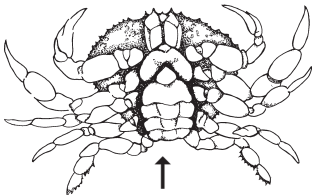


Width measurement of Tanner crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, **including** spines.

### DUNGENESS CRAB

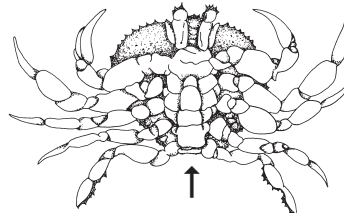
Minimum size 6½ inches

**FEMALE**  
**NO HARVEST ALLOWED**

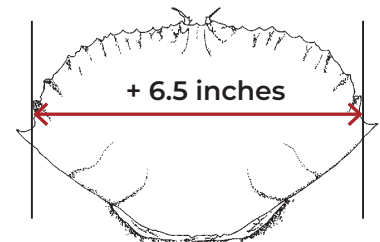


Wide abdominal flap covers most of underside

**MALE**



Narrow abdominal flap

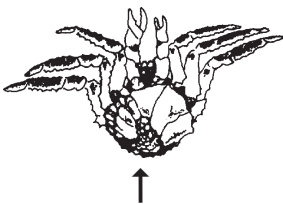


Width measurement of Dungeness crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, **NOT** including spines.

### KING CRAB

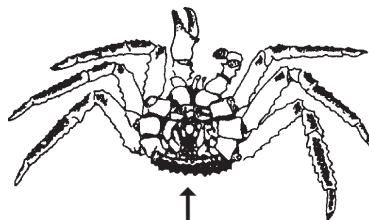
Alaska Peninsula & Aleutian Islands are only open to golden king crab - minimum size 6½ inches  
**Kodiak Island is closed for all three species.**

**FEMALE**  
**NO HARVEST ALLOWED**



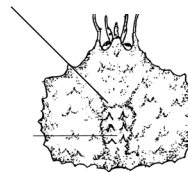
Wide abdominal flap covers most of underside

**MALE**



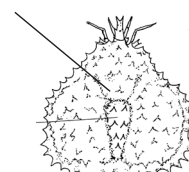
Narrow abdominal flap

6 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate



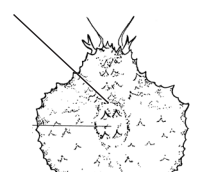
**BLUE KING CRAB**  
(minimum size 6½ inches)

5 to 9 spines on mid-dorsal plate



**GOLDEN KING CRAB**  
(minimum size 6½ inches)

4 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate



**BLUE KING CRAB**  
(minimum size 6½ inches)