

**PROPOSAL 243 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Reduce the sport fishery minimum legal size limit for Tanner crab in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Island Area from 5.5 inches carapace width to 4.8 inches carapace width, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(a)(12) is amended to read:

(12) Tanner crab, 6 per day, 6 in possession, male crab only; 5.5 inches minimum carapace width, **except that in the Bering Sea waters north of 54° 36' N. lat., the minimum carapace width is 4.8 inches** [INCLUDING SPINES].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2011, Tanner crab size limits for the Bering Sea District of commercial Tanner crab Registration Area J (5 AAC 35.520) were reduced from 5.5 inches minimum carapace width to 4.8 inches (and to 4.4 inches west of 166° W. longitude) as a result of an updated geographic analysis by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game of male Tanner crab size-at-maturity and associated population productivity. Lowering the Tanner crab size limit from 5.5 to 4.8 inches carapace width for Bering Sea waters within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Regulatory Area for sport fishing will allow anglers to benefit from any increased Tanner crab harvest opportunity resulting from the updated biological knowledge of this shellfish species.

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

(HQ-F16-156)

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