

PROPOSAL 244 – 5 AAC 69.110. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the North Slope Area; 5 AAC 69.135. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish; 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area; 5 AAC 71.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish; and 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area. Align sport crab fishery regulations and repeal methods and means and general provisions for shellfish for the North Slope, Kuskokwim–Goodnews, and Yukon areas, as follows:

5 AAC 69.110(b)(10) and (11) are repealed:

(10) **repealed** / **2017** [BLUE AND RED KING CRAB: THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS SIX MALE CRAB; THE SIZE LIMIT FOR BLUE KING CRAB IS 5.5 INCHES MINIMUM CARAPACE WIDTH; THE SIZE LIMIT FOR RED KING CRAB IS 4.75 INCHES MINIMUM CARAPACE WIDTH];

(11) **repealed** / **2017** [TANNER CRAB: THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR *C. BARIDI* AND *C. OPILIO* TANNER CRAB, IN COMBINATION, IS 12 MALE CRAB; THE SIZE LIMIT FOR *C. BAIRDI* TANNER CRAB IS 5.5 INCHES MINIMUM CARAPACE WIDTH; THE SIZE LIMIT FOR *C. OPILIO* TANNER CRAB IS 3.1 INCHES MINIMUM CARAPACE WIDTH];

5 AAC 69.135 is repealed:

5 AAC 69.135. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish. Repealed / **2017**. [(a) UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS CHAPTER OR BY AN EMERGENCY ORDER ISSUED UNDER AS 16.05.060, THE PROVISIONS IN THIS SECTION APPLY TO SHELLFISH SPORT FISHING IN THE NORTH SLOPE AREA.

(b) THE OPERATOR OF A COMMERCIALY LICENSED AND REGISTERED SHRIMP FISHING VESSEL WHO IS USING THE VESSEL IN THE SPORT-FISH TAKING OF SHRIMP DURING A CLOSED COMMERCIAL SHRIMP SEASON OR WITHIN A CLOSED COMMERCIAL SHRIMP DISTRICT OR SECTION MAY NOT POSSESS MORE THAN 500 POUNDS OF SHRIMP ON BOARD THE VESSEL.

(c) ONLY MALE CRAB MAY BE TAKEN.

(d) UNTIL A CRAB IS BEING PROCESSED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, NO PERSON MAY MUTILATE OR OTHERWISE DISFIGURE THE CRAB IN A MANNER THAT WOULD PREVENT THE DETERMINATION OF THE MINIMUM SIZE RESTRICTION.

(e) A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE OR POSSESS SHELLFISH THAT IS SMALLER THAN THE APPLICABLE MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE LIMIT SET OUT IN 5 AAC 69.110.

(f) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR SPORT-HARVESTED SHELLFISH ARE NOT IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALLOWED UNDER SUBSISTENCE OR PERSONAL USE FISHING REGULATIONS.]

5 AAC 71.010(b)(10) is repealed:

(10) **repealed** / **2017** [KING CRAB: MAY BE TAKEN IN THE WATERS SOUTH OF 60° N. LAT. ONLY FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH JANUARY 1; THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS SIX MALE CRAB; THE SIZE LIMIT FOR BLUE KING CRAB IS

5.5 INCHES MINIMUM CARAPACE WIDTH; THE SIZE LIMIT FOR RED KING CRAB IS 4.75 INCHES MINIMUM CARAPACE WIDTH];

5 AAC 71.035 is repealed:

5 AAC 71.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish. Repealed / /2017. [(a) UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS CHAPTER OR BY AN EMERGENCY ORDER ISSUED UNDER AS 16.05.060, THE PROVISIONS IN THIS SECTION APPLY TO SHELLFISH SPORT FISHING IN THE KUSKOKWIM — GOODNEWS AREA.

(b) THE OPERATOR OF A COMMERCIALY LICENSED AND REGISTERED SHRIMP FISHING VESSEL WHO IS USING THE VESSEL IN THE SPORT-FISH TAKING OF SHRIMP DURING A CLOSED COMMERCIAL SHRIMP SEASON OR WITHIN A CLOSED COMMERCIAL SHRIMP DISTRICT OR SECTION MAY NOT POSSESS MORE THAN 500 POUNDS OF SHRIMP ON BOARD THE VESSEL.

(c) ONLY MALE CRAB MAY BE TAKEN.

(d) UNTIL A CRAB IS BEING PROCESSED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, A PERSON MAY NOT MUTILATE OR OTHERWISE DISFIGURE THE CRAB IN A MANNER THAT WOULD PREVENT THE DETERMINATION OF THE MINIMUM SIZE RESTRICTION.

(e) A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE OR POSSESS SHELLFISH THAT IS SMALLER THAN THE APPLICABLE MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE LIMIT SET OUT IN 5 AAC 71.010.

(f) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR SPORT-HARVESTED SHELLFISH ARE NOT IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALLOWED UNDER SUBSISTENCE OR PERSONAL USE FISHING REGULATIONS.]

5 AAC 73.010(b)(10) is amended to read:

(10) finfish **and shellfish** species that are not specified in this section: there are no bag, possession, or size limits;

5 AAC 73.010(b)(11) is repealed:

(11) **repealed** / /2017 [SHELLFISH; MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, fishing for king and Tanner crab under sport regulations only occurs in the Northwestern Area of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region. There is minimal suitable habitat for these crab species in the nearshore marine waters of the Kuskokwim–Goodnews, Yukon, or North Slope areas, and limited or no sport fisheries occurs for these species. There has been no record of any of these crab species harvested under sport regulations from either of these areas in the Statewide Harvest Survey since 1996. These changes would simplify regulations and provide consistency in those areas of the AYK Region. If adopted, methods and means for shellfish in these areas will fall under the statewide provisions in 5 AAC 75.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-160)
