

PROPOSAL 262 - 5 AAC 35.505. Description of Registration Area J Districts; 5 AAC 35.506. Area J registration; 5 AAC 35.50X. Western Aleutian District Tanner crab harvest strategy; 5 AAC 35.510. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J; 5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J; 5 AAC 35.558. Reporting requirements for Registration Area J; and 5 AAC 35.590. Vessel length restrictions. Develop a management plan for the Western Aleutian District commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 35.505. Description of Registration Area J districts

(d) Western Aleutian District: all waters west of 172° W. Long, and south of 54° 36' N. Lat.

(1) The Adak Section is comprised of the state waters of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict between 175° W. long. and 178° W. long.

5 AAC 35.506. Area J registration

(5) for the Western Aleutian District *C. bairdi* Tanner crab fishery, the registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. October 10; **except that in the Adak Section a vessel must register at least 5 days prior to beginning fishing.**

5 AAC 35.50X. Western Aleutian District Tanner crab harvest strategy

(a) In the Western Aleutian District, a commercial Tanner crab fishery may be open based on the best scientific information available, if the department determines that there is a harvestable surplus of

(1) tanner crab available in the Adak Section, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a commercial tanner crab fishery only in the Adak Section under 5 AAC 34.510(e);

(2) at least 1,000,000 pounds of tanner crab in the remainder of the Western Aleutian District, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a commercial tanner crab fishery in the remainder of the Western Aleutian District

5 AAC 35.510. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J

(e) In the Western Aleutian District, pots may be operated to take Tanner crab only during a season opened by emergency order from 12:00 noon to November 1 through 12:00 noon March 31, **except that in the Adak Section a season may be opened by emergency order from 12:00 noon August 1.**

5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J

(c) The following pot limits are in effect in Registration Area J:

(6) in the Adak Section of the Western Aleutian District no more than 50 pots per vessel is allowed.

5 AAC 35.558. Reporting requirements for Registration Area J

In the Eastern Aleutian District **and in the Western Aleutian District,** a validly registered Tanner crab vessel must report each day to the department

(1) the number of pot lifts;

(2) the number of crab retained for the 24-hour fishing period preceding the report; and

(3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the management and conservation of the fishery, as specified in the vessel registration certificate issued under 5 AAC 35.020.

5 AAC 35.590. Vessel length restrictions

(d) in the Adak Section of the Western Aleutian District, Tanner crab may not be taken by vessels over 60 feet overall length. In the remainder of the Western Aleutian District, Tanner crab may not be taken by vessels over 60 feet in overall length when the guideline harvest level for Tanner crab in the Western Aleutian District is 1,500,000 pounds or less.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are asking that the Board develop a management plan framework for Western Aleutian District tanner crab. Aleutian Island tanner crab were formerly managed under a Federal Fisheries Management Plan, but with the adoption of Amendment 24 Aleutian Island tanners were removed from the FMP and full responsibility was returned to ADF&G.

The Board did create a management plan for Eastern Aleutian District tanners, but the management plan for the Western Aleutian District tanners is much less complete. We propose that the management plan framework for WAI district tanners be fleshed out in a manner that generally follows the management framework the Board adopted for Adak Red King Crab, addressing: 1) Adak section boundaries, 2) registration requirements, 3) harvest strategy, 4) season dates, 5) pot limits 6) reporting requirements, 7) vessel size limits

PROPOSED BY: Adak Community Development Corporation (HQ-F16-044)
