

PROPOSAL 272 - 5 AAC 02.220. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery. Reduce the legal male size limit in the Prince William Sound subsistence Tanner crab fishery to five and three tenths inches or greater carapace width, as follows:

(2) Only male Tanner five and three tenths inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Size limits for commercially caught crab are 5.3 inches. Requiring subsistence harvesters to adhere to a higher standard creates an additional burden and expense on subsistence fisherman. Currently subsistence users are the only user group permitted to harvest crab. The only user group data obtained by the Department comes from subsistence users. The discrepancy in size limits creates confusion among Department officials as well as harvesters in accurate reporting of subsistence harvests. This results in crab being reported as “sublegal” when they would qualify as legal under the 5.3 inch size limits for commercial fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Wamu Choppell

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