

**PROPOSAL 249**

**5 AAC 58.022. Waters; season; bag, possession, annual and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet- Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.**

Align tanner crab sport fishery season dates for all areas, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022. is amended to read:

(a)(11) Tanner crab: may be taken as follows;

(A) only from **September 1** [JULY 15]

March 15, except as specified under 5 AAC 35.410(c); bag and possession limit of five male crab; minimum size is four and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell, including spines; a shellfish harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.026;

(b)(1)(B) [TANNER CRAB: IN KACHEMAK BAY, EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT POGIBSHI TO ANCHOR POINT, THE OPEN SEASON IS FROM SEPTEMBER 1- DECEMBER 31 AND FROM JANUARY 15 OR THE BEGINNING OF THE COMMERCIAL TANNER CRAB SEASON, WHICHEVER IS LATER, THROUGH MARCH 15]

(b)(2)(D) [TANNER CRAB: IN KACHEMAK BAY, EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT POGIBSHI TO ANCHOR POINT, THE OPEN SEASON IS FROM SEPTEMBER 1- DECEMBER 31 AND FROM JANUARY 15 OR THE BEGINNING OF THE COMMERCIAL TANNER CRAB SEASON, WHICHEVER IS LATER, THROUGH MARCH 15]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, there are two different sport fishery seasons for Cook Inlet –Resurrection Bay Area Tanner crab. A reduced season sport fishery opens from October 1 through the end of February in all areas in the absence of trawl survey data or when Tanner crab abundance is below thresholds. The regular sport fishery season has differing opening dates between Kachemak Bay (September 1) and all other areas (July 15). The regular sport fishery is managed with the Registration Area H Tanner crab harvest strategy (5 AAC 35.408). This strategy uses abundance estimates from the Kachemak and Kamishak bays trawl surveys. The Kachemak Bay trawl survey is only used to manage the Kachemak Bay fisheries and the Kamishak Bay trawl surveys is used to manage all other areas. The Kamishak Bay survey has been discontinued since 2013. This proposal would align the season start date of the regular sport fishery for all areas similar to the reduced sport fishery.

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

(HQ-F19-157)

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