

PROPOSAL 259

5 AAC 34.005. Registration Areas Established; 5 AAC 34.XXX. New sections; 5 AAC 34.500. Description of Registration Area M; 5 AAC 34.505. Description of Registration Area M Districts; 5 AAC 34.506. Area M Registration; and 5 AAC 34.527. King crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area M.

Create a Chignik Registration Area commercial king crab fishery and provide for registration, seasons, size limits, lawful gear, pot storage requirements, inspection, and vessel length restrictions, as follows:

Create a separate Chignik Registration Area for the commercial king crab fishery with the same Area boundaries as those used in the commercial salmon fishery.

5 AAC 34.005. Registration Areas Established. (a) The following are king crab registration areas and their code letters:

L – Chignik Area (5 AAC 34.465)

Article 10. Registration Area L (Chignik). [AREA M (ALASKA PENINSULA)]

5 AAC 34.XXX. Description of Registration Area L. Registration Area L includes all waters of Alaska on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula bounded by a line extending 135° southeast from a point near Kilokak Rocks at 57° 10.34' N. lat., 156° 20.22' W. long., (the longitude of the southern entrance to Imuya Bay), and a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88' W. long.

5 AAC 34.XXX. Description of Registration Area L districts. (a) The Eastern District: All waters of Registration Area L bounded by a line extending 135° southeast from a point near Kilokak Rocks at 57° 10.34' N. lat., 156° 20.22' W. long., (the longitude of the southern entrance to Imuya Bay), and a line extending 135° southeast from Tuliumni Point on Castle Cape at 56° 14.45' N. lat., 158° 6.93' W. long., including the Semidi Islands.

(b) The Western District: All waters of Registration Area L west of a line from Tuliumni Point on Castle Cape at 56° 14.45' N. lat., 158° 6.93' W. long., to a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88' W. long.

5 AAC 34.XXX. Area L registration. Registration Area L is a superexclusive registration area.

5 AAC 34.XXX. Fishing seasons for Registration Area L. (a) The commissioner may open and close, by emergency order, a season for red and blue king crab beginning 8:00 a.m. September 25.

(b) Male golden king crab may be taken from January 1 through December 31 only under conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.

(c) Pots may be operated to take king crab only from 8:00 a.m. to 7:59 p.m., with a soak time of 12 hours from 8:00 p.m. to 7:59 a.m.

5 AAC 34.XXX. Size limits for Registration Area L. (a) Only male king crab six and one-half inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed.

5 AAC 34.XXX. Lawful gear for Registration Area L. (a) King crab may be taken only with king crab pots. King crab taken by other means must be returned to the water without further harm.

(b) Each king crab pot must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than nine-inch stretched mesh webbing.

(c) During the commercial king crab season in Registration Area L, an aggregate of no more than 30 pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab, except that if the guideline harvest level is over 2,000,000 pounds, no more than 75 pots may be operated.

(d) A vessel engaged in taking or transporting king crab may not have on board an otter trawl with a ground line or headline longer than 60 feet.

5 AAC 34.XXX. King crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area L. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.052, king crab pots may not be stored in the water starting seven days following the closure of the Chignik commercial Tanner crab seasons until the scheduled opening date of the commercial king crab season in Registration Area L.

5 AAC 34.XXX. Registration Area L inspection points. Registration Area L inspection points are located at Kodiak or Dutch Harbor or at other locations specified by the department.

5 AAC 34.XXX. Vessel length restrictions for Registration Area L. (a) A vessel engaged in the commercial king crab fishery may not be longer than 58 feet overall length.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “overall length” means the straight line length between the extremities of the vessel, excluding anchor rollers.

Article 11. Registration Area M (South Alaska Peninsula). [AREA O (ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA)]

5 AAC 34.500. Description of Registration Area M. Registration Area M consists of waters west of a line extending [SOUTH FROM CAPE KUMLIK ALONG 157° 27.00' W. LONG.] 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88' W. long. and east of a line extending south from Scotch Cap Light along 164° 44.72' W. long. Registration Area M also includes all waters of Bechevin Bay and Isanotski Strait south of a line from the easternmost tip of Chunak Point to the westernmost tip of Cape Krenitzen.

5 AAC 34.505. Description of Registration Area M Districts.

(b) Central District: all waters of Registration Area M east of a line from Cape Pankof at 54° 39.60' N. lat., 163° 03.70' W. long. to Point Petrof at 54° 28.75' N. lat., 162° 49.42' W. long. and extending south from Point Petrof along 162° 49.42' W. long., and west of a line **extending 135° southeast** from Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88' W. long. [TO CASTLE ROCK AT 55° 16.80' N. LAT., 159° 29.11' W. LONG. AND EXTENDING 135° SOUTHEAST FROM CASTLE ROCK]

[(C) WEST CHIGNIK DISTRICT: ALL WATERS OF REGISTRATION AREA M EAST OF A LINE FROM KUPREANOF POINT AT 55° 33.98' N. LAT., 159° 35.88' W. LONG. TO

CASTLE ROCK AT 55° 16.80' N. LAT., 159° 29.11' W. LONG. AND EXTENDING 135° SOUTHEAST FROM CASTLE ROCK]

5 AAC 34.506. Area M Registration. Registration Area M is a superexclusive registration area. [A VESSEL REGISTERED TO TAKE KING CRAB IN THE WEST CHIGNIK DISTRICT MAY NOT BE USED TO TAKE KING CRAB IN ANY OTHER KING CRAB DISTRICT IN AREA M DURING THE REGISTRATION YEAR.]

5 AAC 34.527. King crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area M. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.052, king crab pots may not be stored in the water starting seven days following the closure of the South Peninsula [AND CHIGNIK DISTRICT] commercial Tanner crab season[S] until the scheduled opening date of the commercial king crab season in Registration Area M.

[5 AAC 34.498. VESSEL LENGTH RESTRICTION FOR REGISTRATION AREA M. (A) IN THE WEST CHIGNIK DISTRICT, A VESSEL ENGAGED IN THE COMMERCIAL KING CRAB FISHERY MAY NOT BE LONGER THAN 58 FEET OVERALL LENGTH.]

[(b) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "OVERALL LENGTH" MEANS THE STRAIGHT LINE LENGTH BETWEEN THE EXTREMITIES OF THE VESSEL, EXCLUDING ANCHOR ROLLERS.]

Article 12. Registration Area O (Aleutian Islands Area).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Chignik Area has different boundaries in the king crab fishery when compared to the salmon boundaries for the Chignik Area. The Chignik Area boundaries should be uniform for all fisheries

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