

PROPOSAL 268

5 AAC 35.507. Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts *C. bairdi* Tanner crab harvest strategies.

Adopt a new Tanner crab harvest strategy used to set annual harvest limits in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts, as follows:

A detailed analysis and recommended harvest strategy scenarios will be provided by the department prior to the March 2021 Statewide All Shellfish meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Tanner crab stocks are characterized by highly variable and episodic recruitment leading to substantial changes in annual abundance levels. The current harvest strategies were established in 1999 and require minimum mature male crab abundance threshold levels to be met before fisheries can occur. Additionally, minimum section and district GHs must be met before fisheries can occur.

The analysis in support of the revised harvest strategy will evaluate the effects of updating the survey time series used to establish minimum abundance thresholds, the utility of including female abundance when considering harvest limits for the male only Tanner crab fishery, and the suitability of current minimum GHs in regulation. The recommended harvest strategy is expected to reduce probability of fishery closures, allow for best application of population estimates, and provide stability for stakeholders.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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