

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 35.305. Description of Registration Area E districts.

Redefine and rename commercial Tanner crab districts in the Prince William Sound Area, and add one additional district, as follows:

Amend subsections (a-d) and add new subsection (e) as follows:

(a) **Northeastern District: all waters east of 147° 40' W. long., and north of 60° 30' N. lat.** [NORTHERN DISTRICT: ALL WATERS NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE FROM THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE OF PORT NELLIE JUAN AT 60° 35.87' N. LAT. TO POINT ELEANOR TO THE EASTERN TIP OF SMITH ISLAND TO JOHNSTONE POINT, AND NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT BENTINCK TO POINT WHITSHED.]

(b) **Northwestern District: all waters north of 60° N. lat. and west of 147° 40' W. long., excluding waters of Puget Bay, excluding waters east of a line from Point Grace to Point Helen, and excluding waters on the east side of Knight Island.** [WESTERN DISTRICT: ALL WATERS EAST OF A LINE FROM CAPE FAIRFIELD (148° 50.25' W. LONG.) SOUTH TO THE LATITUDE OF CAPE DOUGLAS AT 58° 51.10' N. LAT., THEN WEST TO 149° W. LONG., THEN SOUTH ALONG 149° W. LONG., SOUTH OF A LINE FROM THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE OF PORT NELLIE JUAN AT 60° 35.87' N. LAT. TO POINT ELEANOR TO THE EASTERN TIP OF SMITH ISLAND TO MONTAGUE POINT, WEST OF A LINE FROM ZAIKOF POINT TO SEAL ROCKS (60° 09.78' N. LAT., 146° 50.30' W. LONG.), AND WEST OF THE LONGITUDE OF SEAL ROCKS (146° 50.30' W. LONG.).]

(c) **Central District: all waters east of the Northwestern District and south of 60° 30' N. lat. and west of 146° W. long., and bounded on the south by lines at 60° N. lat. from Latouche Island to Montague Island, Zaikof Point to Cape Hinchinbrook, and east from the latitude of Point Bentinck.** [EASTERN DISTRICT: ALL WATERS EAST OF THE LONGITUDE OF SEAL ROCKS (146° 50.30' W. LONG.), EAST OF A LINE FROM SEAL ROCKS (60° 09.78' N. LAT., 146° 50.30' W. LONG.) TO CAPE HINCHINBROOK, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM POINT BENTINCK TO POINT WHITSHED, AND WEST OF THE LONGITUDE OF CAPE SUCKLING (144° W. LONG.).]

(d) **Southeastern District: all waters west of the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.), south of the Northeastern and Central districts, and east of 147° W. long.** [HINCHINBROOK DISTRICT: ALL WATERS EAST OF A LINE FROM MONTAGUE POINT TO THE EASTERN TIP OF SMITH ISLAND, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM THE EASTERN TIP OF SMITH ISLAND TO JOHNSTONE POINT, NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM CAPE HINCHINBROOK TO SEAL ROCKS (60° 09.78' N. LAT., 146° 50.30' W. LONG.), AND EAST OF A LINE FROM SEAL ROCKS (60° 09.78' N. LAT., 146° 50.30' W. LONG.) TO ZAIKOF POINT.]

(e) **Southwestern District: all waters west of 147° W. long., south of the Central and Northwestern districts, and east of a line from Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25' W. long.) south to the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. lat., then west to 149° W. long., then south along 149° W. long., and including waters of Puget Bay.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Registration Area E), the current commercial Tanner crab districts do not reflect management and stock assessment objectives. By regulation, all commercial Tanner crab harvest data are required to be reported on fish tickets by statistical area. The proposed districts align with statistical areas, which would aid management when harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) data are utilized to implement inseason management actions by discrete location. Additionally, the proposed districts divide PWS using information on Tanner crab habitat, historical harvest data, available survey data, and suitable stock assessment methods. Implementing these proposed districts would allow specific survey methods with distinct management goals to be applied for each district, providing for a more robust harvest strategy.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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