

PROPOSAL 249

5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery, as follows:

(1) May not use Tanner crab gear for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in the registration area during the 14 days immediately following the closure of the tanner crab fishery unless

(A) the person removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or

(B) commercial Tanner pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or

(2) may not operate, for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in that registration area during the 14 days immediately following the close of the Tanner crab fishery, a vessel that was used or operated by the person or by another person in the commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Tanner crab registration area unless

(A) the person who used or operated the vessel in the commercial Tanner crab fishery removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled, and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration; or

(B) commercial Tanner crab pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person who used or operated the vessel contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for fishermen to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport without having to wait 14 days after the closure of the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery. Currently, by regulation, the commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska ends on March 31st and fishermen are not allowed to use any form of pot gear for the 14 days following the March 31st closure. Most fishermen that participate in the fishery are done after the "core" season, which is normally open for 5-7 days depending on the stock assessment. Even if the season starts on February 17th, those fishermen are done before the end of February, but must wait until mid-April before they are allowed to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport purposes.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA)

(HQ-F24-068)
