

PROPOSAL 267

5 AAC 35.408. Registration Area H Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Modify the noncommercial Tanner crab fishery thresholds, as follows:

5 AAC 35.408 is amended to read:

...

(d) The noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Cook Inlet Area will be managed as provided in **5 AAC 58.022(a)(11)(A)** [5 AAC 58.022(11)(A)] and 5 AAC 02.325(a) when the most recent [CONSECUTIVE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF] legal male stock abundance estimated from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is greater than or equal to 200,000 crab [AND THE ANNUAL ESTIMATE FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR IS AT LEAST 100,000 CRAB]. The harvest rate is not expected to exceed approximately 10 percent of legal male Tanner crab abundance managed under this section.

The noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Cook Inlet area will be managed as provided in **5 AAC 58.022(a)(11)(B)** [5 AAC 58.022(11)(B)] and 5 AAC 02.325(b) in the absence of a trawl survey, or if the most recent [CONSECUTIVE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF] legal male stock abundance estimated from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is less than 200,000 crab [OR THE ANNUAL ESTIMATE FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR IS BELOW 100,000 CRAB]. The harvest rate is not expected to exceed approximately 10 percent of legal male Tanner crab abundance managed under this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for the noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries require three years of trawl survey data to be used to open the standard noncommercial Tanner crab fishery. The Kachemak Bay trawl survey has not been conducted since 2019. This proposal would provide harvest opportunity directly following a single year of the trawl survey, given a legal male abundance estimate that exceeds the threshold. Only requiring one survey would provide the department with a more cost-effective approach to providing additional subsistence and sport harvest opportunity for Tanner crab.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-180)
