

PROPOSAL 247 – 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area. Repeal regulations that prohibit sport fishing for king or Tanner crab in the Kodiak Area 14 days before and after a commercial king or Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 64.022(a)(12) is amended to read:

(12) Tanner crab: may be taken from January 1 – December 31 [, EXCEPT THAT FROM JULY 15 – FEBRUARY 10, A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE TANNER CRAB IN WATERS 25 FATHOMS OR GREATER IN DEPTH DURING THE PERIODS 14 DAYS BEFORE AND 14 DAYS AFTER THE COMMERCIAL RED KING CRAB, BLUE KING CRAB, OR TANNER CRAB SEASON]; bag and possession limit of six male crab; minimum size is five and one-half inches carapace width;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This provision in sport fishing regulations, which is intended to prevent preseason commercial fishery “prospecting” and also the illegal sale of sport-caught crab following closure of the commercial fishery, is partially duplicated by current regulations addressing commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries (5 AAC 34.053; 5 AAC 35.053) which prohibit operators from participating in the sport fishery within 14 days of a commercial season. Other regulatory provisions for the commercial fishery which effectively discourage illegal sale of sport-caught crab by commercial vessels require that operators deliver their entire catch to processors within as little as 24 hours and no later than 72 hours following closure of the season (5 AAC 34.031; 5 AAC 35.031; 5 AAC 35.556).

Adoption of this proposal will help simplify sport fishing regulations and increase angling opportunity for king and Tanner crab by removing provisions which are largely duplicated in current regulations addressing the commercial king and Tanner Crab fisheries occurring within the Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-157)
