

Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

March 21, 2017

Substitute Language for Proposal 252

5 AAC 39.645 (e) and 5 AAC 39.645 (d)(4)(D)(i) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 39.645. Shellfish onboard observer program.**

...

(e) In addition to the permit requirements in 5 AAC 34.055 and 5 AAC 35.055, the permit for a vessel that **participates in a** [PROCESSES]Tanner crab, red king crab, blue king crab, or golden king crab **fishery** must require that an observer, approved by the department [and provided by the permittee,]be briefed by the department for the fishery in which the vessel participates and that the observer be on board the vessel before the vessel obtains a tank inspection, before the vessel takes crab, before the start of and during all processing operations, **except for when a vessel has checked out of a fishery under 5AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(G) and has notified the department of its intent to deploy gear consistent with 5 AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(D).** For the purpose of 5 AAC 34.055 and 5 AAC 35.055, and 5 AAC 39.140, the observer is a representative of the department. All information collected by the observer is confidential property of the department. The department shall develop guidelines for approval of observers, including training requirements, conflict-of-interests standards, data collection schedules and standards, record keeping and reporting requirements, and other criteria needed to ensure accurate and objective reporting.

...

(d) Based on the findings in (a) – (c) of this section, the department shall institute a mandatory onboard observer program, as follows:

...

(4) to meet catcher vessel observer coverage requirements, a department approved crab fishery onboard observer must be on board the catcher vessel and acting in the capacity of a crab onboard observer in the following registration areas during the following prescribed time periods:

...

(D) for Tanner crab Registration Area J (Westward), Bering Sea District,

(i) during harvest of 30 percent of the total *C. opilio* (snow crab) weight harvested by each catcher vessel while operating fishing gear, during each registration year, or **during a period when the department randomly selects between 30 percent and 100 percent** [THE DEPARTMENT MAY RANDOMLY SELECT 30 PERCENT] of the catcher vessels harvesting Bering Sea *C. opilio* (snow crab) to carry onboard observers for 100 percent of the fishing time of each selected catcher vessel; and

...