

PROPOSAL 254

5 AAC 02.307. Lawful subsistence fishing gear for the taking of Tanner crab; and 5 AAC 02.325. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery.

Allow crab rings in the Cook Inlet Area Tanner crab subsistence fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 02.307. Lawful subsistence fishing gear for the taking of Tanner crab
In that portion of the Cook Inlet Area outside the nonsubsistence area described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(3),

(1) Tanner crab may be taken only with pots, ring nets, dip nets, diving gear, hooked or hookless hand lines, and by hand;

(2)...

(3) no more than two pots **or crab rings or combination thereof** per person with a maximum of two pots **or crab rings or combination thereof** per vessel may be used to take Tanner crab, except that in the waters of the Outer and Eastern Districts between the longitude of Gore Point (150_ 57.85' W. long.) and the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148_ 50.25' W. long.), no more than two pots **or crab rings or combination thereof** per person with a maximum of six pots **or crab rings or combination thereof** per vessel may be used to take Tanner crab.

5 AAC 02.325. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery

...

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 02.307 and (a) of this section, if the provisions of 5 AAC 35.408(d) apply, then male Tanner crab may be taken only from October 1 through the last day of February; bag and possession limit of three male Tanner crab; no more than one pot or crab ring per person with a maximum of one pot **or crab ring** per vessel may be used to take Tanner crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The new Cook Inlet Tanner Crab subsistence fishery has regulations wording that inadvertently left out the use of crab rings as legal gear. The regulations establishing this fishery were written defining the limit of pots per person, and pots per vessel with no reference to the allowance of crab rings which are also typical legal gear in all sport, personal use, and subsistence crab fisheries around the state. This proposal addresses this ‘technical’ omission which has currently prevented the use of crab rings in this fishery. The smaller boats often are not equipped with pot pullers to handle tanner size crab pots and therefore have been excluded from participating in this winter fishery. The statewide subsistence crab fishery regulations allow pots or crab rings, or a combination of both when a fishery allows more than one piece of gear for harvest. Correcting the wording to include the use of a crab ring(s) along with crab pots will standardize the regulations to conform with the traditional gear and allow more participants in this limited winter fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Barnes

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