

PROPOSAL 258

5 AAC 35.527. Tanner crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area J.

Align pot storage requirements and allow storage of pots in waters more than 25 fathoms for seven days following season closure for Tanner crab in the Kodiak District, as follows:

Allow storage of non-fishing gear on the grounds seven days after section closures and align storage requirement for different pot types (rectangular and cone/pyramid).

5 AAC 35.527. Tanner crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area J. The Tanner crab pot storage requirements in 5 AAC 35.052(a)(2) apply, except in the

(5) Kodiak District, **rectangular pots with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open, and cone** or pyramid pots with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors not secured closed may be stored in **waters more than 25 fathoms for seven days following the season closure for Tanner crab in any section of the Kodiak District;** [THE WATER ONLY FROM 30 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED OPENING DATE OF THE COMMERCIAL TANNER CRAB SEASON UNTIL 30 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THAT SEASON;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations require getting crab to a processor within 24 hours and 72 hours for unbaited gear to be left on the grounds in deeper water where most of the fishing occurs after a closure. At the end of a short season nearly all the crab caught will arrive at the processors in the 24 hour delivery period. Boats are unloaded in the order of coming in. It may take several days before every one is unloaded. Some boat's crab may not be offloaded before most or all of the 72 hour period is over. Because of capacity, stability, weather, icing, not all the pots can be brought in when delivering the crab. Increasing the allowed storage time for unbaited gear from 72 hours to seven days would allow a more reasonable time to go back and get remaining gear. Storing gear in less than 25 fathoms may not be feasible because of the tight time lines fishermen are working under at closures.

PROPOSED BY: Oliver Holm

(HQ-F19-027)
