

PROPOSAL 265

5 AAC 34.640. Registration Area O inspections and inspection points; 5 AAC 34.806. Area T registration; 5 AAC 34.840. Registration Area T inspection points and requirements; 5 AAC 34.906. Area Q registration; 5 AAC 34.940. Registration Area Q inspections and inspection points; 5 AAC 34.950. District registration; 5 AAC 35.506. Area J registration; 5 AAC 35.555. Inspection requirements for Registration Area J; 5 AAC 39.670. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Crab Fisheries Management Plan.

Update Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab registration regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 34.640 is amended to read:

(a) Inspection points in Registration Area O are located at Dutch Harbor[, AKUTAN, KING COVE,] and at additional locations if specified by the department.

(b) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.030(a), for Registration Area O a registered king crab vessel may have its holds, live tanks, and freezers inspected by a local representative of the department at Dutch Harbor or **additional locations specified by the department** [, AKUTAN, OR KING COVE] within 72 hours before taking or processing king crab.

5 AAC 34.806 is amended to read:

(b) For the red king crab fishery, the **preseason** vessel registration deadline for the registration year is 5:00 p.m. September 24. Before a vessel may be **preseason** registered under this subsection, the vessel operator must file a **preseason** registration form with the department. The **preseason** registration form must identify the vessel and vessel operator, and must be received in person, [OR] by mail, **electronic mail** or facsimile, at the department office in Dutch Harbor or Kodiak by the deadline specified in this subsection.

Editor's note: The registration form specified in 5 AAC 34.806(b) may be sent by mail or facsimile to the department office in Dutch Harbor at Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 920587, Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99602-0587; Fax: (907) 581-1572; **e-mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov** or the department office in Kodiak at Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 351 Research Court, Kodiak, Alaska 99615-7400; Fax: (907) 486-1824.

5 AAC 34.840 is amended to read:

(b) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.030, in Registration Area T within 30 hours before a season opening or at any time during the open season before taking or processing king crab, a king crab vessel registered for Registration Area **may** [MUST] have all holds or live tanks inspected by a local representative of the department at inspection points specified in this section. Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, king crab may not be on board the vessel at the time of inspection. Successful completion of the inspection validates the vessel's registration for Registration Area T. During the period 30 hours before the season opening in Registration Area T until the season closure, the inspection requirements of this section do not apply to a registered king crab vessel that does not have a saltwater circulation system in its holds or live tanks. If an inspection is not required, completion of the registration form validates the registration.

5 AAC 34.906 is amended to read:

(b) In the Pribilof District and the St. Matthew Island Section of the Northern District,

(1) for the red and blue king crab fishery, the **preseason** vessel registration deadline for the registration year is 5:00 p.m. August 24;

(2) for the golden king crab fishery, the vessel registration deadline for the registration year is 21 days before the vessel begins fishing operations.

(c) Before a vessel may be registered under this section, the vessel operator must obtain a CFEC interim-use permit for Bering Sea king crab that references the vessel's ADF&G license number and file a registration form with the department, except that a vessel operator is not required to obtain a CFEC interim-use permit before filing a registration form for the Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries or the Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab fishery. The registration form must identify the vessel and vessel operator and must be received in person, by mail, **electronic mail**, or facsimile, at the department office in Dutch Harbor or Kodiak by the applicable deadline specified in (b) of this section.

Editor's note: The registration form specified in 5 AAC 34.906(c) may be sent by mail or facsimile to the department office in Dutch Harbor at Department of Fish and Game, P. O. Box 920587, Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99602-0587; Fax: (907) 581-1572; **e-mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov**; or the department office in Kodiak at Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 351 Research Court, Kodiak, Alaska 99615-7400; Fax: (907) 486-1824.

5 AAC 34.940 is amended to read:

(b) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.030, for the Saint Matthew Island Section of Registration Area Q, a registered king crab vessel may have its holds, live tanks, and freezers inspected by a local representative of the department at Dutch Harbor or **additional locations specified by the department** [, AKUTAN, OR KING COVE] within 72 hours before taking or processing king crab.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.030, for the Pribilof District of Registration Area Q, a registered king crab vessel may have its holds, live tanks, and freezers inspected by a local representative of the department at Dutch Harbor or **additional locations specified by the department** [, AKUTAN, OR KING COVE] within 30 hours before taking or processing king crab.

5 AAC 34.950 is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.950. District registration. (a) Vessel and gear registered for Registration Area Q must also be registered for the Northern District before fishing in that district. Vessels and gear registered for the Northern District may not be used to fish in any other district. The registration district shall be indicated on the **registration** [INSPECTION] certificate.

5 AAC 35.506 is amended to read:

(e) For the Chignik, Eastern Aleutians, Western Aleutians, and Bering Sea Districts, the registration deadlines for the registration year are as follows:

(1) for the Bering Sea District *C. opilio* Tanner crab fishery, the **preseason** registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. September 24;

(2) for the Bering Sea District, *C. bairdi* Tanner crab fishery, the **preseason** registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. September 24;

(3) repealed 8/14/2005;

(4) for the Eastern Aleutian District *C. bairdi* Tanner crab fishery, the **preseason** registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. December 24;

(5) for the Western Aleutian District *C. bairdi* Tanner crab fishery, the registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. October 10;

...

(f) Before a vessel may be registered under this section, the vessel operator must obtain a CFEC interim-use permit for Tanner crab that references the vessel's ADF&G license number and file a registration form with the department, except that a vessel operator is not required to obtain a CFEC interim-use permit before filing a **preseason** registration form for the Bering Sea Tanner or snow crab fisheries. The registration form must identify the vessel and vessel operator and must be received in person, or by mail, **electronic mail**, or facsimile, at the department office in Dutch Harbor or Kodiak by the applicable deadline specified in (e) of this section.

Editor's note: The registration form specified in 5 AAC 35.506(e) and (f) may be sent by mail, **electronic mail or** facsimile to the department office in Dutch Harbor at Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 920587, Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99602-0587; Fax: (907) 581-1572; **e-mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov**; or the department office in Kodiak at Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 351 Research Court, Kodiak, Alaska 99615-7400; Fax: (907) 486-1824.

5 AAC 35.555 is amended to read:

(a) Except in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts, during the 24 hours before the scheduled opening date of the commercial Tanner crab season in Registration Area J, or a portion of Registration Area J, or at any time during the open season before taking crab, a Tanner crab vessel registered for Registration Area J **may** [MUST] have all holds, live tanks, and freezers inspected by a local representative of the department at an inspection point specified in 5 AAC 35.540. Tanner crab may not be on board the vessel at the time of inspection. The requirements of this section do not apply to a registered Tanner crab vessel that does not have a saltwater circulation system in its holds or live tanks. In the Bering Sea District only, the requirements of this section do not apply to catcher-processor vessels, if the commercial *C. bairdi* Tanner crab season remains open through the opening of the commercial *C. opilio* Tanner crab season.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, for the Bering Sea District commercial *Chionoecetes opilio* fishery, a registered Tanner crab vessel may have its holds, live tanks, and freezers inspected by a local representative of the department at Dutch Harbor or **additional locations specified by the department** [, AKUTAN, OR KING COVE] within 48 hours before taking or processing Tanner crab.

5 AAC 39.670 is amended to read:

Editor's note: The contact phone number for the United States Coast Guard for Kodiak, Alaska is (907) 654-5588; Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Alaska is (907) 581-6738; Anchorage, Alaska is (907) 229-8203; and Kenai, Alaska is (907) 398-6220.

The gear operation transfer form specified in 5 AAC 39.670(c)(2) may be sent to the department office in Dutch Harbor at Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 920587, Dutch Harbor, AK 99692-0587; Fax (907) 581-1579; **e-mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Most Bering Sea crab fisheries were rationalized in 2005 resulting in orderly and predictable fisheries. Some registration requirements for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries do not best reflect current fishing practices. This proposal would provide additional clarification between preseason and fishery registrations, allow the fleet to submit forms to the department by electronic mail, provide the department with flexibility on registration location, and allow the department the ability to waive tank inspections for vessels.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-167)
