

**Fishery Management Report No. 11-58**

---

---

**Fishery Management Plan for Commercial Tanner  
Crab Fishery in the Kodiak District, 2011/2012**

by

**Nicholas H. Sagalkin**

---

---

November 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



## Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Syst me International d'Unit s (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

<b>Weights and measures (metric)</b>		<b>General</b>		<b>Mathematics, statistics</b>	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative		<i>all standard mathematical</i>	
deciliter	dL	Code	AAC	<i>signs, symbols and</i>	
gram	g	all commonly accepted		<i>abbreviations</i>	
hectare	ha	abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs.,	alternate hypothesis	H <sub>A</sub>
kilogram	kg		AM, PM, etc.	base of natural logarithm	e
kilometer	km	all commonly accepted		catch per unit effort	CPUE
liter	L	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D.,	coefficient of variation	CV
meter	m		R.N., etc.	common test statistics	(F, t, $\chi^2$ , etc.)
milliliter	mL	at	@	confidence interval	CI
millimeter	mm	compass directions:		correlation coefficient	
		east	E	(multiple)	R
		north	N	correlation coefficient	
		south	S	(simple)	r
		west	W	covariance	cov
<b>Weights and measures (English)</b>		copyright	©	degree (angular )	°
cubic feet per second	ft <sup>3</sup> /s	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df
foot	ft	Company	Co.	expected value	E
gallon	gal	Corporation	Corp.	greater than	>
inch	in	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than or equal to	≥
mile	mi	Limited	Ltd.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
nautical mile	nmi	District of Columbia	D.C.	less than	<
ounce	oz	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than or equal to	≤
pound	lb	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (natural)	ln
quart	qt	exempli gratia		logarithm (base 10)	log
yard	yd	(for example)	e.g.	logarithm (specify base)	log <sub>2</sub> , etc.
		Federal Information		minute (angular)	'
<b>Time and temperature</b>		Code	FIC	not significant	NS
day	d	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H <sub>0</sub>
degrees Celsius	°C	latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	percent	%
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	monetary symbols		probability	P
degrees kelvin	K	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability of a type I error	
hour	h	months (tables and		(rejection of the null	
minute	min	figures): first three		hypothesis when true)	α
second	s	letters	Jan,....,Dec	probability of a type II error	
		registered trademark	®	(acceptance of the null	
<b>Physics and chemistry</b>		trademark	™	hypothesis when false)	β
all atomic symbols		United States		second (angular)	"
alternating current	AC	(adjective)	U.S.	standard deviation	SD
ampere	A	United States of		standard error	SE
calorie	cal	America (noun)	USA	variance	
direct current	DC	U.S.C.	United States	population	Var
hertz	Hz		Code	sample	var
horsepower	hp	U.S. state			
hydrogen ion activity	pH		use two-letter		
(negative log of)			abbreviations		
parts per million	ppm		(e.g., AK, WA)		
parts per thousand	ppt,				
	‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

***FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 11-58***

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COMMERCIAL  
TANNER CRAB FISHERY IN THE KODIAK DISTRICT, 2011/2012**

by

Nicholas H. Sagalkin

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Kodiak

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services  
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska, 99518-1565

November 2011

The Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 by the Division of Sport Fish for the publication of an overview of management activities and goals in a specific geographic area, and became a joint divisional series in 2004 with the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

*Nicholas H. Sagalkin*  
*Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries*  
*211 Mission Road, Kodiak, AK 99615, USA*

*This document should be cited as:*

*Sagalkin, N. H. 2011. Fishery management plan for commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Kodiak District, 2011/2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 11-58, Anchorage.*

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

**If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:**

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240

**The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:**

(VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646,  
or (FAX) 907-465-6078

**For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:**

ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage AK 99518 (907) 267-2375.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
LIST OF FIGURES .....	i
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	I
ABSTRACT .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
Area Description.....	1
Overview .....	1
Recent Fisheries.....	2
2010/2011 Fishery .....	2
2011/2012 Guideline Harvest Levels .....	2
REGULATIONS .....	3
Overview .....	3
Season Opening Weather Delay .....	3
Fishing Periods .....	3
Pot Limits and Buoy Tags .....	3
Gear .....	4
Operation of Other Pot Gear, Pot Storage, and Landing Requirements.....	4
Registration, Tank Inspections, Vessel Size Restrictions, and Tenders.....	6
Tanner Crab Size Limit .....	7
INSEASON FISHERY MANAGEMENT .....	7
VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING .....	7
SEMIDI ISLAND OVERLAP SECTION.....	8
REFERENCES CITED .....	8
FIGURES .....	9
APPENDIX A. CONTACT PERSONS, AGENCIES, AND PHONE NUMBERS.....	11

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Kodiak District Tanner crab guideline harvest levels and harvest in pounds, 2004/2005–2010/2011 seasons.....	2
2. Kodiak District Tanner crab guideline harvest levels by section, 2012. ....	2

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Kodiak Tanner crab District and Sections, 2011/2012.....	10

## LIST OF APPENDICES

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Page</b>
A1. Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.....	12



## ABSTRACT

Three sections of Kodiak District are scheduled to open for a commercial Tanner crab *Chionoecetes bairdi* fishery on January 15, 2012. The opening date may be delayed due to severe weather under criteria established in regulation. Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery is a limited entry fishery with permits regulated by Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. **The total Kodiak District guideline harvest level (GHL) is 950,000 pounds. The pot limit will be 20 pots per vessel in 2012.** Guideline harvest levels are established by section: **550,000 pounds for Eastside Section, 300,000 pounds for Southeast Section, and 100,000 pounds for the Southwest Section.** In the Eastside Section, inner Kiliuda Bay will remain closed. Harvest within bays or localized areas will be managed in relation to survey results.

Key words: Tanner crab, *Chionoecetes bairdi*, Kodiak District, Area J, harvest strategy, regulations.

## INTRODUCTION

### AREA DESCRIPTION

Kodiak Tanner crab *Chionoecetes bairdi* District includes the waters of Registration Area J south of the latitude of Cape Douglas, west of the longitude of Cape Fairfield and east of the longitude of Cape Kumlik. The district is subdivided into eight sections: Northeast, Eastside, Southeast, Southwest, Semidi Island Overlap, Westside, North Mainland, and South Mainland. Sections are described in 5 AAC 35.505 DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRATION AREA J DISTRICTS. Only Eastside, Southeast, and Southwest sections will open during the 2012 season (Figure 1).

In the Eastside Section, inner Kiliuda Bay inside a line west of 153°00.00' W long will be closed (Figure 1).

### OVERVIEW

Kodiak District Tanner crab commercial fishery began in 1967. Commercial harvest peaked in the 1977/78 season when over 33 million pounds were harvested from the district.

In the late 1980s, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) began a trawl survey to obtain relative abundance estimates and predict future recruitment trends of Tanner crab around Kodiak. Prior to this time, pot surveys were used for stock assessment (Urban et al. 1999).

Declines in the harvestable surplus of Tanner crab in Kodiak District through the 1980s led to decreased quotas and closures of some sections to commercial fishing. By 1995, commercial Tanner crab fisheries were closed in all Kodiak sections due to reduced stock abundance. Closures continued through the 1990s, even though increases in stock size occurred late in the decade (Spalinger 2011).

Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted a comprehensive harvest strategy in 1999 for management of Tanner crab in Kodiak District. Under this strategy, a commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur when 1) preseason trawl survey abundance estimates meet or exceed established thresholds; 2) two or more sections, excluding South Mainland and Semidi Island Overlap sections, are opened; 3) the guideline harvest level (GHL) in an open section is at least 100,000 pounds; and 4) abundance is sufficient to provide a total district harvest of at least 400,000 pounds (Urban et al. 1999).

## RECENT FISHERIES

### 2010/2011 Fishery

Northeast, Eastside, Southeast, and Southwest sections met the required criteria for a commercial Tanner crab opening in 2010/2011. The total district GHL was 1,490,000 pounds with 100,000 pounds available in Northeast Section, 1,000,000 pounds in Eastside Section, 240,000 pounds in the Eastside Section, and 150,000 pounds in the Southwest Section (Table 1). Total harvest from the 2010/2011 Kodiak District fishery was 1,517,589 pounds of Tanner crab from 140 landings made on 79 unique vessels. The fishery opened in Northeast, Eastside, Southeast, and Southwest sections at noon on January 15, 2011. The majority of the harvest was taken within five days. Chiniak Bay within the Northeast Section closed Monday, January 17 at 2:00 PM. Inside waters of the Southeast Section closed Tuesday, January 18 at 2:00 PM, and outside waters of the Southeast Section closed the same day at 6:00 PM. The Eastside Section closed on Thursday, January 20, at 5:59 PM. The Southwest Section closed January 26 at 2:00 PM, and the remaining waters of the Northeast Section closed on February 1 at 5:59 PM. The Semidi Island Overlap Section remained open until the regulatory closure on March 31.

Table 1.—Kodiak District Tanner crab guideline harvest levels and harvest in pounds, 2004/2005–2010/2011 seasons.

Season	Guideline Harvest Level	Harvest
2004/05	1,750,000	1,800,196
2005/06	2,100,000	2,121,384
2006/07	800,000	765,092
2007/08	500,000	425,353
2008/09	400,000	357,854
2009/10	700,000	650,315
2010/11	1,490,000	1,537,384

### 2011/2012 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

GHs are established by section in 2012 for the Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season:

Table 2.—Kodiak District Tanner crab guideline harvest levels by section, 2012.

Section	2011/2012 Guideline Harvest Level (pounds)
Eastside	550,000
Southeast	300,000
Southwest	100,000
<b>Total Kodiak District</b>	<b>950,000</b>

# REGULATIONS

## OVERVIEW

Regulations pertaining to Tanner crab fisheries in Registration Area J begin on page 143 of the 2011–2012 Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fishing regulation book. The harvest strategy, 5 AAC 35.507 *KODIAK, CHIGNIK, AND SOUTH PENINSULA DISTRICTS, C. BAIRDI TANNER CRAB HARVEST STRATEGIES*, is located on pages 150–152. For information on additional regulations, contact the ADF&G office in Kodiak. Following is a summary of 2012 Tanner crab fishing regulations in the South Peninsula District, particularly those that have changed as a result of recent BOF actions.

## SEASON OPENING WEATHER DELAY

The 2012 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season opens by regulation at 12:00 PM (noon), January 15, 2012 unless delayed by weather. The entire Kodiak District fishery will be delayed for 24 hours if the January 14, **4:00 AM** National Weather Service marine forecast for the current day and night plus the following day and night in **Area 132** contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots or higher). If after the initial weather delay, the 4:00 AM National Weather Service marine forecast for the current day and night plus the following day and night again contains gale force wind warnings, the season opening will be delayed an additional 24 hours. Season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until 12:00 noon on January 25, when the season will open regardless of the National Weather Service marine forecasts.

## FISHING PERIODS

Pot gear may only be operated from 8:00 AM to 5:59 PM (5 AAC 35.510). Operation of gear, which includes setting or retrieving pots, is prohibited from 6:00 PM to 7:59 AM. Based on the department's assessment of effort in the district, manageability, and harvest rate, daily fishing periods may be increased by emergency order. Fishing periods will likely NOT increase until late in the season when effort has substantially decreased.

## POT LIMITS AND BUOY TAGS

The pot limit for 2011/2012 Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery will be **20 pots per vessel** (5 AAC 35.525). To ensure compliance with pot limit regulations, the main or trailer buoy on each pot must display one fishery-specific identification tag (buoy tag) issued by the ADF&G for the current year. More information on buoy tags can be found under 5 AAC 35.526 TANNER CRAB POT MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA J.

**Tags will be available beginning in mid-December.** A valid 2012 Tanner crab CFEC permit card (TB9AK or TB9BK) is required to obtain tags. Participants from areas outside the city of Kodiak can obtain tags via U.S. Mail until December 31. Tags will not be mailed after this date; contact ADF&G in Kodiak for details (907) 486-1840.

**If tags are lost, replacement tags are available.** The vessel owner, operator, or agent must complete an affidavit form describing how the tags were lost and supply the unique number(s) of each lost tag.

**Pots with lost tags must be secured open with bait removed until replacement tags are obtained.** Vessels must contact Alaska State Troopers, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection (Appendix A) to inform them of the situation and locations of the untagged pots.

## **GEAR**

By regulation, Tanner crab pots are limited to no more than 10 feet long by 10 feet wide by 42 inches high with rigid tunnel eye openings that are less than five inches in height. Tunnel eye opening perimeters must be individually more than 36 inches. Ring nets are not a legal gear type in Kodiak District. The specific language regarding legal pot dimensions can be found under 5 AAC 35.050 **LAWFUL GEAR FOR TANNER CRAB**.

Escape mesh or escape ring requirements are included in the regulations for legal Tanner gear. Each pot used to take Tanner crab must have at least one third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than 7-1/4 inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings which have an inside diameter of at least five inches. If using rings, they must be installed on the vertical plane of the pot to allow for escapement of undersized crab. The rings are not required to be placed near the bottom of the pot as they are in some Bering Sea fisheries. However, ADF&G recommends placing rings within one mesh of the bottom of the pot to optimize escapement of undersized crab. Specific language on escape device requirements is described in 5 AAC 35.525 **LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA J**.

All pots must be equipped with a biodegradable escape mechanism as described in 5 AAC 39.145 **ESCAPE MECHANISM FOR SHELLFISH AND BOTTOMFISH POTS**. An opening 18 inches or greater in length that is placed within six inches of the bottom of the pot must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100 percent cotton twine no larger than 30 thread.

Buoys attached to pots must comply with 5 AAC 35.051 **TANNER CRAB GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS** and 5 AAC 35.526 **TANNER CRAB GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS AREA J**. The buoy that contains ADF&G number marking may not be marked with additional numbers; however, other symbols and letters are acceptable on the buoy. Trailer or other buoys used to mark ownership or string sequence may be marked with any desired numbers, symbols, or letters.

The use of converted pots as ‘storage boxes’ to store crabs in the water for vessels registered as dry tanked vessels is not permitted unless crab storage devices are attached to the vessel at all times.

### **Operation of Other Pot Gear, Pot Storage, and Landing Requirements**

There is a 14-day stand down period for the operation of pot gear before the commercial Tanner crab fishery opening in Kodiak District. A person may not operate commercial, subsistence, or sport pots for any species 14 days prior to the start of the Kodiak District Tanner crab season (5 AAC 35.053 **OPERATION OF OTHER POT GEAR**).

Legally outfitted pots with buoy tags attached *may be* placed into shallow water storage during the 14-day stand down period. However, vessels may not retrieve gear already in legal storage to put tags on gear during the 14-day stand down period. In addition, vessels **may not** retrieve gear during the time between the tank inspection and the fishery opening. Only after the fishery opens will vessels be allowed to retrieve pots from storage. At the time of registration (tank inspection), all gear onboard and in the water must have buoy tags affixed to be in compliance.

Up to 20 cone or pyramid pots may be stored for up to 30 days before the season in waters of 25 fathoms or less with all bait and bait containers removed and doors not secured closed. Pots other than cone or pyramid may be stored longer than 30 days before the season in waters less than 25

fathoms if bait and bait containers are removed and doors are secured open. No vessel may have more than the specified pot limit onboard or in wet storage in the registration district (all waters from Cape Douglas to Kilokak Rocks) while the vessel is validly registered. Regulatory language concerning pot storage can be found at 5 AAC 35.527 TANNER CRAB POT STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AREA J.

After the closure of the Tanner crab season, vessels wishing to participate in the Pacific cod fishery must either place Tanner crab pots into shallow-water storage or on land and register with ADF&G for the Pacific cod fishery. Additional stipulations on the operation of other pot gear within the Kodiak District can be found under 5 AAC 35.053 OPERATION OF OTHER POT GEAR.

Delivery requirements, post-closure pot storage requirements, and re-registration requirements vary depending on the type of area closure and the amount of notice given. The following is a summary of closure scenarios, subsequent pot-storage options, delivery requirements, and re-registration requirements contained in 5 AAC 35.031, 5 AAC 35.052, 5 AAC 35.527, and 5 AAC 35.556:

**Changing section registration prior to section closure.**

- Vessel operators may change section registration prior to a section closure; however, they must deliver all crab harvested from a section prior to fishing in another area.
- Vessel operators may place baited gear in other open sections prior to delivery, but may not retrieve that gear until all crab from the other registration area has been delivered.

**Closure of an entire section with 6 or more hours notice.**

- Pots must be unbaited at the time of closure.
- By regulation, ADF&G will require all vessel operators within a section that is closed to deliver all catch from the section within 24 hours of the closure.
- Unbaited gear with doors secured open may be stored in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours following the closure. After 72 hours, all gear remaining in the closed section must be removed or stored in waters shallower than 25 fathoms.
- While in transit from the closed area, vessel operators may contact ADF&G and re-register for an open section. This will permit vessels to legally place baited gear, once validly registered, in the waters of an open section provided the 24-hour delivery deadline is met.

**Closure of an entire section with less than 6 hours advance notice.**

- Vessel operators are required to proceed directly to port at the time of the closure and deliver within 24 hours after the closure.
- Once the fishery is closed, vessel operators may not place gear in storage, retrieve pots from storage, or place gear in an open section until they have completed their delivery of crabs from the closed section. Vessel operators are required to immediately return to the fishing grounds after their delivery to ‘rail dump’ all crab from baited gear left on the grounds. Vessel operators with baited gear may only store baited pots in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours following the closure. Vessel operators may re-register for an open section after completing their delivery and removing any baited gear from the grounds. A tank inspection will be required before vessels may register for an open section.

### **Partial closure of a fishing section with 6 or more hours notice.**

- Pots must be unbaited at the closure.
- Vessel operators within the closed area of the section may be required to deliver all crabs from the section within 24 hours of the closure.
- Any changes to the delivery requirement will be provided by news release at the time of the closure announcement. Vessel operators may store pots in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours in the closed waters of the section.
- Vessel operators may place baited gear in the open waters of the same section before delivery provided the 24-hour delivery deadline is met.

### **Partial closure of a fishing section with less than 6 hours notice.**

This scenario is highly unlikely. Should this type of closure occur the landing, pot storage, and re-registration requirements would be provided in a news release.

Vessel operators wishing to deliver to ports outside the district are required to contact ADF&G in Kodiak before leaving the district. Vessels delivering outside the district must provide the estimated number of crab onboard the vessel at the time of the closure, location of port and processing facility, and estimated time of arrival. Additional requirements exist for catcher-processors and vessels mechanically disabled. Vessels legitimately delayed due to circumstances of weather will be addressed on a case by case basis (5 AAC 35.031 TANNER CRAB LANDING REQUIREMENTS).

## **REGISTRATION, TANK INSPECTIONS, VESSEL SIZE RESTRICTIONS, AND TENDERS**

Vessel operators must have a 2012 permit card (TB9BK or TB9AK) for Kodiak District Tanner crab and a current 2012 commercial vessel license. The fishery is limited entry and vessels that do not qualify for a CFEC permit may not participate in Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery. Permits and vessel licenses can be obtained from CFEC in Juneau (Appendix A).

CFEC adopted two vessel size categories for the issuance of permits in Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery. Persons eligible to receive a permit will receive either a permit for a vessel with an overall length of less than 60 feet or a permit for a vessel of 60 to 120 feet in overall length. Persons receiving a permit for a ‘large vessel’ of 60 to 120 feet can use their permit on vessels smaller than 60 feet. A ‘large vessel’ permit card cannot be used on a vessel greater than 120 feet in overall length. Persons receiving a permit for ‘small vessels’ under 60 feet in overall length cannot make landings on a vessel 60 feet or longer in overall length.

Kodiak District is a superexclusive registration district for Tanner crabs, 5 AAC 35.506 AREA J REGISTRATION (a). A vessel validly registered for a superexclusive registration area may not be used to take Tanner crab in any other registration area during that registration year, 5 AAC 35.005 (c). A vessel is considered registered for Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery once the vessel has had a tank inspection, 5 AAC 35.020 (e & f); a valid registration does not require actual fishery participation or landing. A vessel operator that registers for the 2011/2012 Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery may not operate any other Tanner crab vessel registered for any other superexclusive registration area within the same registration year, 5 AAC 35.020 (h). The Tanner crab registration year is August 1–July 31, 5 AAC 35.020 (c). Vessel operators must register for a single section in Kodiak District. Vessel operators may change their section registration by contacting the department by satellite phone or in person.

Tank inspections are required for vessels with a circulating sea water system to confirm that no crab are onboard the vessel prior to the fishery opening. Circulating sea water systems include on-deck containers with water circulated by pumps, hoses, or other means. Gear will also be inspected at the time of tank inspection to ensure it is in compliance with all gear regulations. Tanks will be inspected beginning at noon on January 14 unless the fishery is delayed for severe weather (*see Fishery Opening Delay Due to Severe Weather*). Arrangements will be made to accommodate tank inspections in Old Harbor. Upon successful completion of the tank inspection and gear inspection process, a 2011/2012 shellfish registration will be issued to the vessel. A copy of this registration must remain onboard the vessel while fishing. This registration becomes invalid 24 hours after the closure of the fishery.

Tender vessels must register with ADF&G before beginning tendering operations. Tender vessels may not have a pot-hauling block or other Tanner crab gear onboard nor may they be used to harvest Tanner crab.

### **TANNER CRAB SIZE LIMIT**

The legal minimum size of Tanner crabs that can be harvested in Kodiak District is 5.5 inches carapace width (CW). Only legal-size male Tanner crab can be retained; all other crab incidentally captured must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. This includes subsistence king crab, as they cannot be legally taken in a commercial Tanner crab fishery.

### **INSEASON FISHERY MANAGEMENT**

ADF&G may manage bays and offshore areas separately, closing one portion of a section while allowing continued harvest in other locations within the same section. The department will manage so that harvest within bays or localized areas does not exceed available harvest based on ADF&G survey results.

Given the distribution of Tanner crab estimated by the survey in the inshore portion of Eastside, Southeast, and Southwest sections, partial closures may occur after very little fishing time (possibly within the first full day of fishing).

Fishery performance, measured by catch per unit effort (CPUE) of legal crab, will be closely monitored. As the stocks within these management sections are still rebuilding, closures may occur before the total GHL is achieved if CPUE indicates the number of legal-sized animals has substantially declined or if excessive handling of sublegal and female crab is occurring.

ADF&G will make every effort to allow sufficient time for permit holders to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for a short advance-notice closure.

### **VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING**

ADF&G will manage Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab fishery from inseason catch reports provided by permit holders. Inseason management will allow for real-time fishery decisions and the ability to consider changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather.

Catch reports will be taken using satellite dispatch system, e-mail, or phone (e-mail and phone numbers are listed in Appendix A). **ADF&G office uses Matrix<sup>1</sup> dispatch services; the office**

---

<sup>1</sup> Use of trade names does not constitute an endorsement from ADF&G.

**number is 7894.** Vessel operators will be issued a reporting worksheet during registration and/or tank inspection to participate in inseason reporting. Operators will be asked during the registration process which method they will use to submit daily reports.

Reports will initially be taken at 6:00 PM. The department may change the reporting schedule if effort declines later in the season.

Any closure announcement or change in the reporting schedule will be made on dispatch. Current fishery status will also be available on ADF&G recorded message phone at 486-4559. Updates, changes to the reporting schedule, and closure announcements will be distributed via e-mail, FAX, and passed along to all participating processors.

## **SEMIDI ISLAND OVERLAP SECTION**

- Vessels wishing to fish in the Semidi Island Overlap Section must register with ADF&G.
- Vessels registered for the Semidi Island Overlap Section may not fish outside the Semidi Island Overlap Section, unless they invalidate their Semidi Island Overlap Section registration through ADF&G.
- **Vessels registered for the Semidi Island Overlap Section have a mandatory reporting requirement.** The vessel operator must either provide daily catch reports via radio, phone, satellite dispatch system or e-mail of the vessel's catch, catch locations, and effort, or maintain logbooks that include the vessel's catch, catch locations and effort to be turned into ADF&G upon return to port.
- The **Semidi Island Overlap Section of the Kodiak District has a limit of no more than 70 aggregate pots** that may be operated from a validly registered Tanner crab vessel. Vessel operators may use their 20 Kodiak District pots and tags. The additional 50 pots must have the unique Semidi Island Overlap Section tags attached, and cannot be used in the Kodiak District. Semidi Island Overlap Section tags may be obtained from ADF&G in Kodiak after December 15, 2011. Participants from areas outside the cities of Kodiak, Sand Point, or Chignik can obtain tags via U.S. Mail until December 31. No tags will be mailed after this date.
- Landing requirements for the Semidi Island Overlap Section.
  - Vessels fishing in the Eastside, Southeast, or Southwest Section of the Kodiak District will be required to deliver prior to switching into the Semidi Island Overlap Section.
  - Vessels fishing in the Semidi Island Overlap Section switching to other sections of the Kodiak District, prior to the closure of the Semidi Island Overlap Section, will be required to deliver before changing registrations.

## **REFERENCES CITED**

- Spalinger, K. 2011. Bottom trawl survey of crab and groundfish: Kodiak, Chignik, South Peninsula, and Eastern Aleutians Management Districts, 2010. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 11-40, Anchorage.
- Urban, D., D. Pengilly, D. Jackson, and I. Vining. 1999. A Tanner crab harvest strategy for Kodiak, Chignik, and the South Peninsula Districts. A Report to the Board of Fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K99-21, Kodiak.

## **FIGURES**

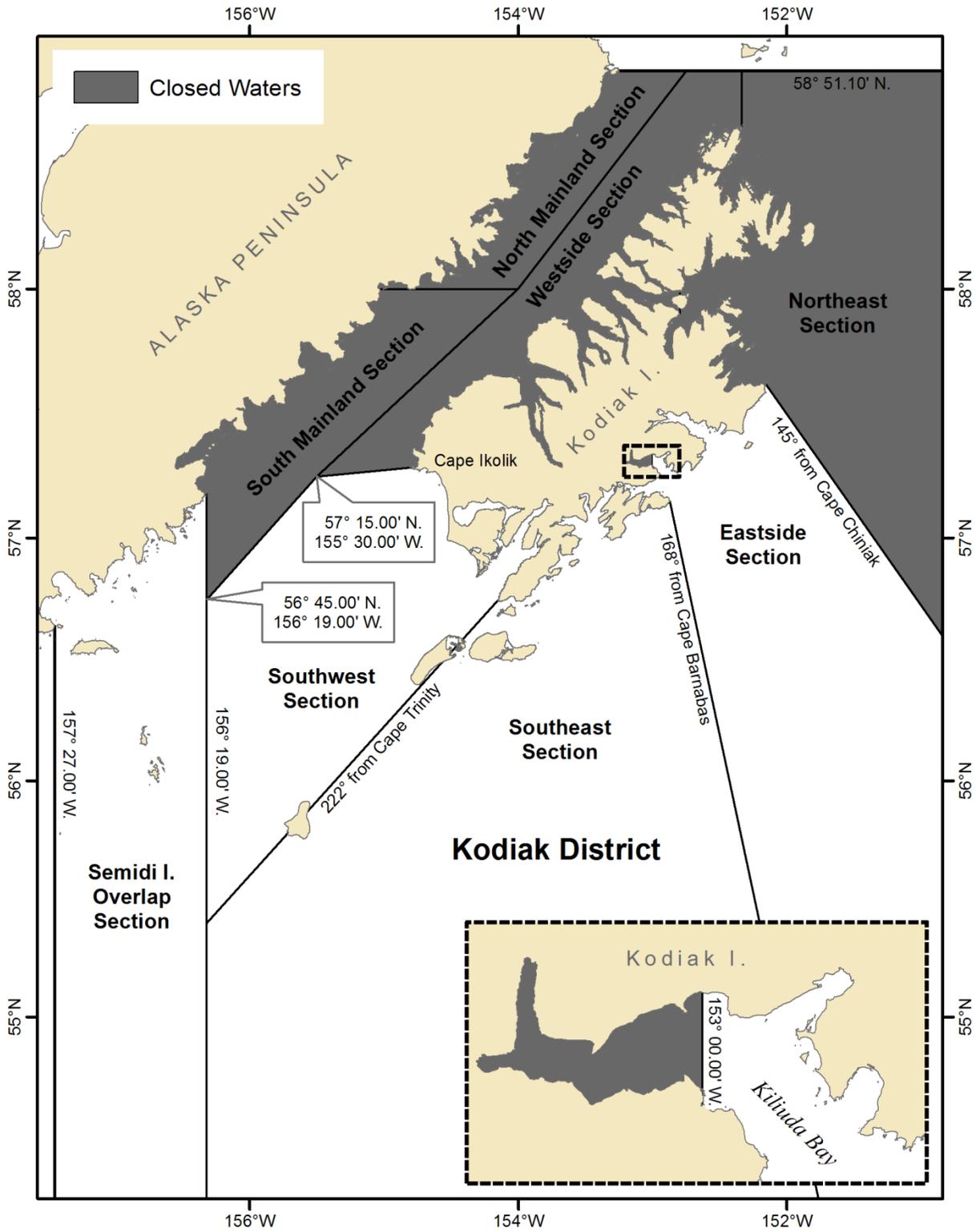


Figure 1.—Kodiak Tanner crab District and Sections, 2011/2012.

**APPENDIX A. CONTACT PERSONS, AGENCIES,  
AND PHONE NUMBERS**

Appendix A1.–Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.

---

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

web site:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=CommercialByAreaKodiak.shellfish>

211 Mission Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
(907) 486-1840  
FAX : (907) 486-1824  
DISPATCH: 7894

Wayne Donaldson                      Westward Region Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist  
wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov

Nicholas Sagalkin                      Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist  
nick.sagalkin@alaska.gov

Mark Stichert                              Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist  
mark.stichert@alaska.gov

**Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection**

web site: <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/awt/>

2921 A Mill Bay Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
(907) 486-4761  
FAX: (907) 486-5480

**Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission**

web site: <http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/>

8800 Glacier Highway  
Juneau, Alaska 99615  
(907) 789-6160  
FAX : (907) 789-6170