



ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues

March 17 – 21, 2014

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

(This board summary is for informational purposes only and the actions below will have legal affects in regulations that provide the sole legal action of the board.)

C=Carried, F=Failed, C/A= Carried as Amended, N/A=No Action

COMMITTEE A - GULF OF ALASKA CRAB (19 Proposals)		
Statewide King and Tanner Crab (1 proposal)		
F (0-7)	326	Close all commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries, except Southeastern Alaska.
Prince William Sound Crab (7 proposals)		
C (7-0)	327	Update regulatory description of king crab Registration Area E.
C (7-0)	328	Update regulatory description of Tanner crab Registration Area E.
F (0-7)	329	Establish a guideline harvest range (GHR) for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound based on commercial fishery opened with 10-pot limit.
N/A	330	Establish a guideline harvest range (GHR) for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound based on commercial fishery opened with 15-pot limit. <i>Took no action by unanimous consent due to action on Proposal 329.</i>
N/A	331	Establish a guideline harvest range (GHR) for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound based on commercial fishery opened with 20-pot limit. <i>Took no action by unanimous consent due to action on Proposal 329.</i>
N/A	332	Open a commercial Tanner crab fishery in Prince William Sound for intervals no greater than two years. <i>Took no action by unanimous consent due to action on Proposal 329.</i>
N/A	333	Open a commercial Tanner crab fishery in Prince William Sound in March and April with vessel length and pot limit. <i>Took no action by unanimous consent due to action on Proposal 329.</i>

Cook Inlet Crab (3 proposals)		
C (7-0)	334	Modify the harvest strategy for Registration Area H Tanner crab.
C/A (7-0)	335	Change season dates of the fisheries to October 15 through March 15. <i>Amended to change opening date to September 1 – March 31 in Kachemak Bay in sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries.</i>
F (3-4)	336	Modify sport fishing season, pot size requirements, pot limit, and bag limit for Cook Inlet Tanner crab. <i>Amended by substitute language in RC 71 with unanimous consent. Did not carry on final action.</i>
Kodiak Crab (3 proposals)		
C/A (7-0)	337	Repeal prohibition on subsistence Tanner crab fishing 14 days before participating in a king or Tanner crab commercial opening. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 39.</i>
F (0-7)	338	Close Alitak Bay to subsistence and commercial king and Tanner crab fishing.
C (7-0)	339	Amend description of area and districts.
Kodiak and South Peninsula Crab (1 proposal)		
C (7-0)	340	Clarify weather-delay regulations to open the Tanner crab seasons in the Kodiak and South Peninsula areas.
Kodiak, Chignik and South Peninsula Crab (1 proposal)		
C/A (7-0)	341	Repeal Tanner crab tank inspection requirements. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 40.</i>
South Peninsula Crab (2 proposals)		
F (0-7)	342	Change Tanner crab fishery opening to January 3.
C (7-0)	343	Amend description of king and Tanner crab registration area and districts.
Registration Area J Tanner Crab (1 proposal)		
C (7-0)	347	Amend description of registration area and districts.

COMMITTEE B - Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Crab (23 proposals)		
Norton Sound Crab (3 proposals)		
C/A (7-0)	344	Add spiny king crab (<i>Paralithodes brevipes</i>) as defined species of king crab. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 52.</i>
C/A (7-0)	345	Allow king crab be taken by hand line during winter commercial fishery in the Norton Sound Section. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 53.</i>
C/A (7-0)	346	Adjust red king crab harvest rates and trigger points based on changes in abundance model. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 54.</i>
Aleutian Islands Crab (10 proposals)		
F (3-4)	348	Increase harvest limit for Aleutian Islands golden king crab. <i>Amended to reduce harvest increase from 15% to 5% by a 4-3 vote. Amended proposal failed on final action.</i>
C/A (7-0)	349	Modify Aleutian Islands golden king crab season. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 62. Added a friendly amendment to delay implementation to first trimester of 2015/2016.</i>
C (7-0)	350	Establish districts for western Aleutian Islands red king crab.
C (7-0)	351	Establish management measures for Adak red king crab fishery
C/A (7-0)	352	Close federal waters between 171° W. long. and 179° W. long. to fishing when red king crab guideline harvest level (GHL) in state-waters is less than 250,000 pounds. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 72.</i>
N/A	353	Establish registration deadline for Adak red king crab. <i>No action taken due to proposer withdrawing support in RC 59.</i>
C/A (7-0)	354	Open Adak red king crab fishery by emergency order July 1. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 63.</i>
C (7-0)	355	Exempt persons and vessels participating in Adak District red king crab fishery from participation in certain other fisheries.
F (0-7)	356	Add Adak as tank inspection location for red king crab.
C (7-0)	357	Amend description of Aleutian Islands king crab registration area.
Bering Sea Crab (5 proposals)		
C/A (7-0)	358	Revise Saint Matthew Island blue king crab fishery harvest strategy. <i>Amended by unanimous consent substitute language in RC 34.</i>
C/A (7-0)	359	Allow groundfish pots in Saint Matthew Island blue king crab fishery. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 64.</i>
N/A	360	Eliminate king crab pot marking for Registration Area Q (Bering Sea). <i>Due to actions taken on Proposal 359.</i>

C (7-0)	361	Modify gear marking requirements for longline pots in the Bering Sea golden king crab fishery.
C/A (7-0)	362	Specify vertical placement of escape rings and update definition of escape ring placement in Bering Sea Tanner and snow crab fisheries. <i>Amended by unanimous consent substitute language in RC 45.</i>
Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Crab (1 proposal)		
C (7-0)	363	Clarify vessel check-out provisions in rationalized crab fisheries.
Crab Observer Program (4 proposals)		
C (7-0)	364	Clarify when a trainee observer permit expires.
C (7-0)	365	Clarify observer definitions for “briefing”, “debriefing”, and “trainee”.
C (7-0)	366	Clarify observer briefing and debriefing instructions.
C (7-0)	367	Update regulations for independent contracting agents.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Miscellaneous Issues (7 proposals)		
F (1-6)	370	Modify groundfish bycatch possession requirements.
C/A (7-0)	371	Remove dip net size restrictions for Yukon Area districts 1–3 commercial summer chum salmon fisheries. <i>Amended by unanimous consent with substitute language in RC 49. Further amended to add a maximum depth of the net. Proposal carried. Proposal was reconsidered based on new information. Reconsideration adopted the substitute language from RC 49 without a maximum depth for the net.</i>
C (7-0)	372	Modify the specifications and operations of a commercial fish wheel in the Yukon Area to allow the use of a lead.
C (7-0)	373	Remove the exception allowing for a dead king salmon to be taken, but not retained in the Yukon Area districts 1–3 dip net and beach seine commercial summer chum salmon fisheries.
C (7-0)	374	Modify the time period the Nushagak River single-hook regulation is in effect from year-round to May 1 – July 31.
C (7-0)	375	Remedy a navigational obstruction in Ugashik River set gillnet salmon fishery.
F (2-5)	377	Authorize use of purse seine gear for commercial harvest of Yukon River summer chum salmon in districts 1–3 during times of king salmon conservation; secondarily the proposal asks for consideration of allowing monofilament purse seine web in this fishery.

Miscellaneous Business

1. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Observer Oversight Task Force Report.
 - The board heard a report from the BS/AI Crab Observer Oversight Task Force and agreed with all recommendation with the exception of extending the Task Force indefinitely. Recommendations found in RC 20.

2. Emergency Petitions – Board action on initial review
 - Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group – Permitting Dip Nets in Kuskokwim River drainage subsistence fishery during times of king salmon conservation. The petition is RC 16 with Department comments in RC 66. The finding of emergency carried 7-0. The board adopted the petition with language to be developed similar to that in 01.220(n)(3) and 5 AAC 39.105; and delegated authority to the Commissioner to make the regulation permanent. Approved 7-0.
 - Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group – Limiting gillnet length for king salmon conservation in Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery. The petition is RC 18 with Department comments in RC 67. The finding of emergency carried 7-0. The board adopted the petition and delegated authority to the Commissioner to make the regulation permanent. Approved 7-0.

3. Emergency petitions received at the current meeting – The board will seek staff comments as soon as possible and set a board poll to determine if it will schedule a meeting.
 - Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association – Modify Late Run Kenai River King Salmon management plan. RC 68.
 - South K Beach Independent Fishermen’s Association - Modify Late Run Kenai River King Salmon management plan – Petition #1. RC 69.
 - South K Beach Independent Fishermen’s Association - Modify Late Run Kenai River King Salmon management plan – Petition #2. RC 70.

4. Central Gulf of Alaska Pollock Work Group.
 - The workgroup work plan is found in RC 73. Member Jeffrey provided the board an update.