DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
50 CFR Part 671
Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab Fisheries

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a fishery management plan and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA issues this notice that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted a Fishery Management Plan for the commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (FMP) for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public.

Copies of the FMP may be obtained from the address below.

DATE: Comments on the FMP should be submitted on or before May 2, 1989.

ADDRESS: All comments should be sent to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802. Copies of the FMP and the environmental assessment are available upon request from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136 Anchorage, AK 99510.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any FMP it prepares to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for review and approval or disapproval. The Magnuson Act also requires that the Secretary, upon receiving the FMP, immediately publish a notice that the FMP is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comments in determining whether to approve the FMP.

The FMP for the commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands culminates a 10-year effort by the Council to address the concerns of various user groups while at the same time acknowledging over 20 years of management of crab by the State of Alaska. The FMP provides the State of Alaska with the lead management role for the king and Tanner crab fisheries. Also, the FMP provides for Secretarial oversight of State preseason and inseason actions through a review and appeal procedure to ensure that State management of king crab and Tanner crab is consistent with the FMP, the Magnuson Act, and other applicable Federal law.

No Federal regulatory action is necessary to implement this FMP. The Secretary has preliminarily determined that existing State laws appear to be consistent with the FMP, the Magnuson Act, and other applicable Federal law. If the Secretary later finds that a State regulation or statute governing king or Tanner crab in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands is inconsistent with the FMP, the Magnuson Act, or other applicable Federal law, he may publish a regulation in the Federal Register that supersedes such State regulation or statute as it applies in the EEZ.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.


Alan Dean Parsons,
Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management.

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