§ 38.125 [Amended]

23. Amend § 38.125(a)(2) by removing the words “If portable or platform lifts, ramps, or bridge plates meeting the applicable requirements of this section are provided on station platforms or
other stops required to be accessible, or mini-high platforms complying with
§ 38.113(d) are provided,” and adding, in their place, the words “If level-entry
boarding is provided, consistent with 49 CFR 37.41 (c) through (h).”.

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BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 680
[Docket No. I.D. 021606B]
RIN 0648–AU06

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Allocating Bering Sea
And Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab Fishery Resources

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of fishery
management plan amendment; request
for comments.

SUMMARY: Congress amended the
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management Act
(Magnuson-Stevens Act) to require the
Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to
approve the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands
(BSAI) Crab Rationalization Program
(Program). The Program allocates BSAI crab resources among harvesters,
processors, and coastal communities. The Program was implemented by
Amendments 18 and 19 to the Fishery Management Plan for BSAI King and
Tanner Crabs (FMP). Amendment 20 would modify the FMP and the Program
to increase resource conservation and improve economic efficiency in the
Chionoecetes bairdi crab (Tanner crab) fisheries that are subject to the Program.
This action is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-
Stevens Act, the FMP, and other applicable laws.

DATES: Comments on the amendment
must be submitted on or before April 28,
2006.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Sue
Salveson, Assistant Regional
Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries
Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, Attn:
Records Office. Comments may be
submitted by:
• Mail: P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK
99802.
• Hand Delivery to the Federal
Building: 709 West 9th Street, Room
420A, Juneau, AK.
• E-mail: 0648–AU06–KTC20–
NOA@noaa.gov. Include in the subject
line of the e-mail the following
document identifier: Crab
Rationalization RIN 0648–AU06. E-mail
comments, with or without attachments,
are limited to 5 megabytes.
• Webform at the Federal
eRulemaking Portal: http://
www.regulations.gov. Follow the
instructions at that site for submitting
comments.

Copies of Amendment 20 and the
Environmental Assessment/Regulatory
Impact Review/Initial Regulatory
Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) for
this action may be obtained from the
NMFS Alaska Region at the address
above or from the Alaska Region Web
site at http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/
sustainablefisheries.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Glenn Merrill, 907–586–7228 or
glenn.merrill@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that
each regional fishery management
council submit any fishery management
plan amendment it prepares to NMFS
for review and approval, disapproval, or
partial approval by the Secretary. The
Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires
that NMFS, upon receiving a fishery
management plan amendment,
immediately publish a notice in the
Federal Register announcing that the
amendment is available for public
review and comment.

The king and Tanner crab fisheries in
the exclusive economic zone of the
BSAI are managed under the FMP. The
FMP was prepared by the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council (Council)
under the Magnuson-Stevens Act as
amended by the Consolidated
Appropriations Act of 2004 (Pub. L.
108–199, section 801). Amendments 18
and 19 to the FMP amended the FMP to
include the Program. A final rule
implementing these amendments was
published on March 2, 2005 (70 FR
10174). NMFS also published three
corrections to the final rule (70 FR
13097; March 18, 2005), (70 FR 33390;
June 8, 2005), and (70 FR 75419;
December 20, 2005).

The Council submitted Amendment
20 to the FMP for Secretarial review,
which would make minor changes to
the FMP necessary for the management
of the Tanner crab fisheries under the
Program. If approved, Amendment 20
to the FMP would modify the allocation
of harvesting shares and processing shares
for Bering Sea Tanner crab. Under
authority deferred to the State of Alaska
(State) by the FMP, the State has
determined that the Bering Sea District
Tanner crabs are in two geographically
separate stocks, and should be managed
as two separate stocks; one east of 166°
W longitude, the other west of 166° W
longitude. Currently, under the
Program, harvester quota share (QS),
processor quota share (PQS), individual
fishing quota (IFQ), and individual
processing quota (IPQ) are issued for
two Tanner crab fisheries one east of
166° W longitude, the other west of 166° W
longitude. Currently, under the
Program, harvester quota share (QS),
processor quota share (PQS), individual
fishing quota (IFQ), and individual
processing quota (IPQ) are issued for
one Tanner crab fishery. Amendment 20
would modify the FMP to allocate QS
and PQS and the resulting IFQ and IPQ
for Bering Sea Tanner crabs. Under
authority deferred to the State of Alaska
(State) by the FMP, the State has
determined that the Bering Sea District
Tanner crabs are in two geographically
separate stocks, and should be managed
as two separate stocks; one east of 166°
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longitude. Currently, under the
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processor quota share (PQS), individual
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processing quota (IPQ) are issued for
two Tanner crab fisheries one east of
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fishing quota (IFQ), and individual
processing quota (IPQ) are issued for
one Tanner crab fishery. Amendment 20
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Program, harvester quota share (QS),
processor quota share (PQS), individual
fishing quota (IFQ), and individual
processing quota (IPQ) are issued for
two Tanner crab fisheries one east of
166° W longitude, the other west of 166° W
longitude.
Public comments are being solicited on proposed Amendment 20 through the end of the comment period (see DATES). NMFS intends to publish a proposed rule that would implement Amendment 20 in the Federal Register for public comment, following NMFS’ evaluation under the Magnuson-Stevens Act procedures. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period on Amendment 20 to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on Amendment 20. All comments received by the end of the comment period on Amendment 20, whether specifically directed to the FMP amendment or the proposed rule, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendments. To be considered, comments must be received not just postmarked or otherwise transmitted by the close of business on the last day of the comment period.


William D. Chappell,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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