BERING SEA TANNER CRAB
SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 15
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ANNOUNCED

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2014 NMFS trawl survey results for Bering Sea Tanner crab. Based on area-swept estimates, mature female biomass for Bering Sea District Tanner crab is above the minimum threshold for fishery opening. The 2014/15 Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries will open October 15, 2014 and close March 31, 2015.

Bering Sea District Tanner crab is managed east and west of 166° W long, with a separate total allowable catch (TAC) for each area. Biomass estimates of mature male Tanner crab east and west of 166° W long are above the long-term average. The TACs are apportioned as follows:

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<th>East of 166° W long (EBT)</th>
<th>West of 166° W long (WBT)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)</td>
<td>7,632,000 pounds</td>
<td>5,962,500 pounds</td>
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<td>Community Development Quota (CDQ)</td>
<td>848,000 pounds</td>
<td>662,500 pounds</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>8,480,000 pounds</td>
<td>6,625,000 pounds</td>
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The EBT directed fishery will open in Bering Sea District waters from 163° to 166° W long. East of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may also be retained up to five percent of the weight of red king crab onboard a registered vessel for Bristol Bay red king crab.

The WBT directed fishery will open in Bering Sea District waters west of 166° W long. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may also be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. In the directed Tanner crab fishery west of 166° W long, snow crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of Tanner crab onboard a vessel registered for the WBT fishery. Fishermen may not be concurrently registered for both WBT and EBT fisheries.
To protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock, the WBT fishery will not open in waters enclosed by connecting the following coordinates: 56°30' N lat, 170° W long; 57° N lat, 171° W long; 58° N lat, 171° W long; 58° N lat, 168° W long; 58°30' N lat, 168° W long; 58°30' N lat, 167° W long; 57°30' N lat, 167° W long; 57°30' N lat, 168° W long; 57° N lat, 168° W long; 56°30' N lat, 169° W long; 56°30' N lat, 170° W long. The associated closed ADF&G statistical areas are: 675800, 675730, 685730, 695730, 705730, 705701, 705703, 695701, 695700, 685700, 695631, 695632, the northeast half of 705630, and the northwest half of 685630. A map of closed areas will be provided at the time of registration.

A valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Decal is required before a vessel registration may be issued. Vessels must also have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by NMFS. The operator of a vessel participating in IFQ or CDQ crab fisheries must notify the USCG at least 24 hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted at: (907) 581-3466 or (907) 359-1575 (after hours).

At the time of vessel registration, all pots onboard the vessel and in wet storage must be in compliance with current Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishing regulations. There is no pot limit or buoy tag requirement for Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries. Vessel operators may register up to 20 groundfish pots. Vessel operators may register gear operation cooperatives. A vessel operator may transport crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another vessel operator; however, the registered vessel operator of the crab pot gear has seven days to be active in the registration area where the gear is deployed. A vessel operator may make a one-time transfer of all pot gear to another vessel operator at the completion of fishing operations.

Preseason gear inspections will be available beginning Thursday, October 9, 2014 in Dutch Harbor, Saturday, October 11 in King Cove, and Sunday, October 12 in Akutan. Vessel registration will begin at noon on Monday, October 13, 2014. An individual holding a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bering Sea Tanner crab interim use permit card (T91Q or T09Q) must be present during registration. Vessel operators may participate concurrently in IFQ and CDQ fisheries, but a separate registration and CFEC permit card are required for each fishery.

Vessel operators must notify ADF&G within 72 hours of completing fishing operations in a registration area or when departing the registration area with gear in long-term storage or transferred to another vessel. Unbaited gear with doors open may be stored for up to 14 days outside of designated storage areas after fishing is completed. Pots must be removed from the water or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than 14 days. A vessel operator's registration will be invalidated after 14 days of inactivity in a registration area.

For questions regarding issuance of quota share and IFQ/IPQ, contact NOAA Fisheries RAM Division at 1-800-304-4846 (option #2). For questions regarding federal Crab Rationalization Program regulations, contact NOAA Fisheries Sustainable Fisheries Division at (907) 586-7228 or the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in Kodiak at (907) 486-3298 or Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-2061.

For further information contact ADF&G Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239, or ADF&G Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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