

*From Agenda 6.  
Presented by Bill Donaldson  
At March 1978 NPFMC Meeting*

## 1977-78 DOMESTIC TANNER CRAB FISHERY IN THE BERING SEA

The Tanner crab season opened on November 1, however fishing did not commence until after the king crab season ended on December 8, 1977. The November-December catch has always been minor compared with the total seasonal catch. In the months of November and December 421,014 pounds were landed by 38 vessels.

The U.S. fishing industry has increased its catching ability of Tanner crab this season by increasing the number of vessels, offering a higher price and buying crab earlier this season than last season. In 1977, during the months of January and February 18 vessels landed 962,981 pounds, compared with 46 vessels in 1978 which have landed 7,720,966 pounds. As of March 19 the fleet has landed seven million pounds for the month of March.

### 1978 Fishery

In January the fleet has concentrated its effort in the Southeastern district north and east of Unimak Island, the catch was 1,808,611 pounds and the CPUE averaged 84 crab per pot, with an average weight of 2.5 pounds. During January the Pribilof Island catch was 315,365 pounds, and the CPUE average 14 crab per pot with an average weight of 2.6 pounds per crab

The February catch was 7,720,966 pounds landed by 46 vessels with CPUE averaging 62 crab per pot. The Southeastern district accounted for 79 percent of the February catch or 6,089,066 pounds with CPUE of 66. The Pribilof district catch was 1,631,930 pounds with a CPUE of 49. Currently the price of Tanner in the Bering Sea is 38¢ per pound.

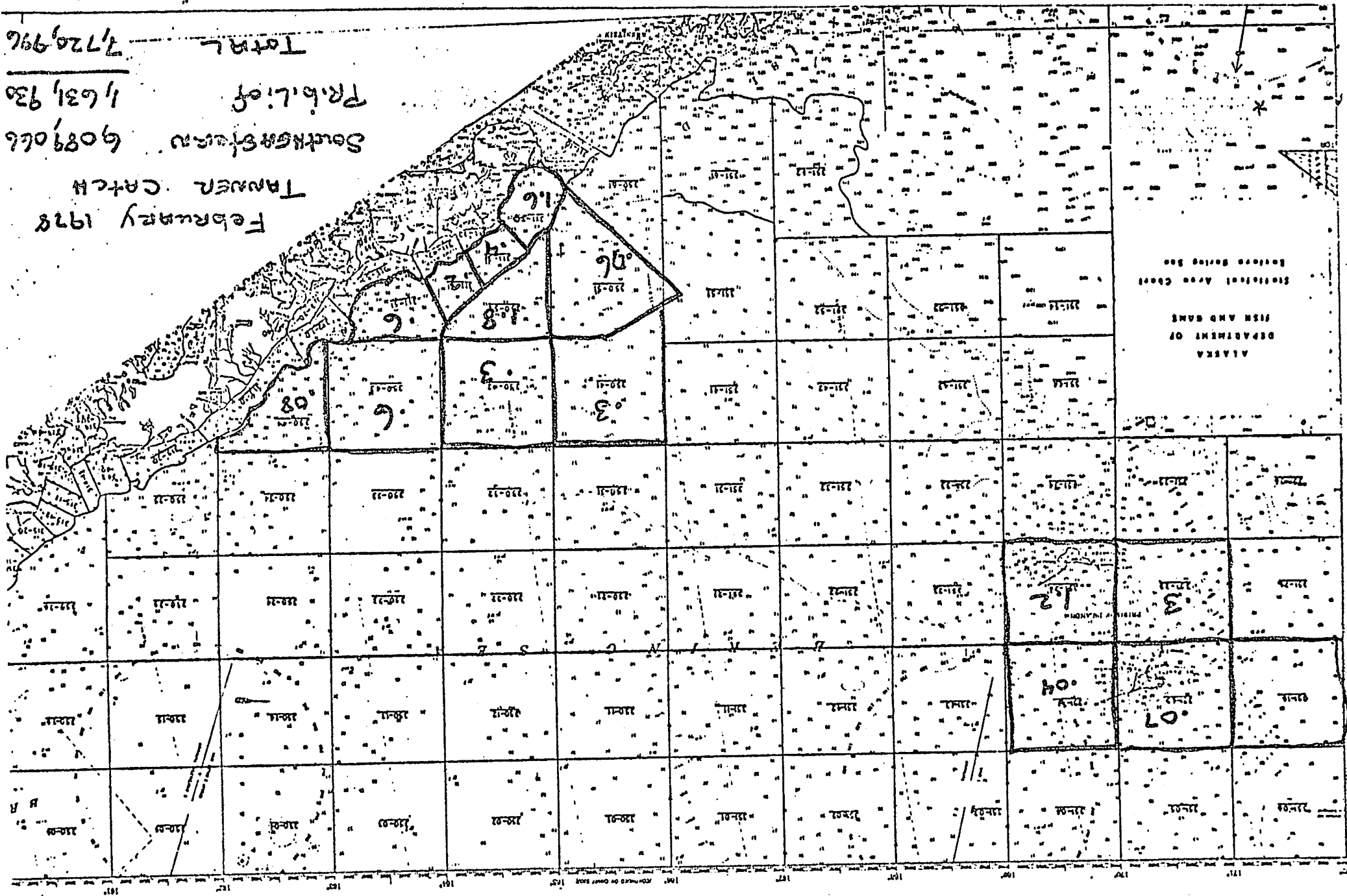
The Tanner crab processors in the Bering Sea are capable of receiving and processing five to six million pounds per week. Currently 65 vessels are fishing the Bering Sea with new vessels entering the fishery every day. In 1977, 92 vessels fished the Bering Sea beginning March 15 and landed 51.4 million pounds by June 15. If the crab stocks can support a 75 million pound harvest (midpoint of harvest range) economically and biologically the current Tanner crab season on C. bairdi in the Bering Sea could reach the 75 million pound level on May 30.

DOMESTIC FLEET  
BERING SEA  
TANNER CATCH  
MONTH & YEAR

Month	Boats	1976		Boats	1977		Boats	1978	
		Ldgs.	Pounds		Ldgs.	Pounds		Ldgs.	Pounds
Jan.	2	2	55,084	6	6	89,242	31	41	2,123,976
Feb.	11	20	797,189	12	20	962,981	46	93	7,720,966
March	16	27	1,318,599	22	43	3,278,851	85*	150	15,000,000
April	42	78	6,383,007	54	108	11,601,469			
May	42	78	5,576,731	80	202	21,869,100			
June	43	88	7,823,838	78	162	13,652,413			
July	10	10	372,702	1	1	1,165			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>22,327,150</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>51,455,221</b>			

\*estimated

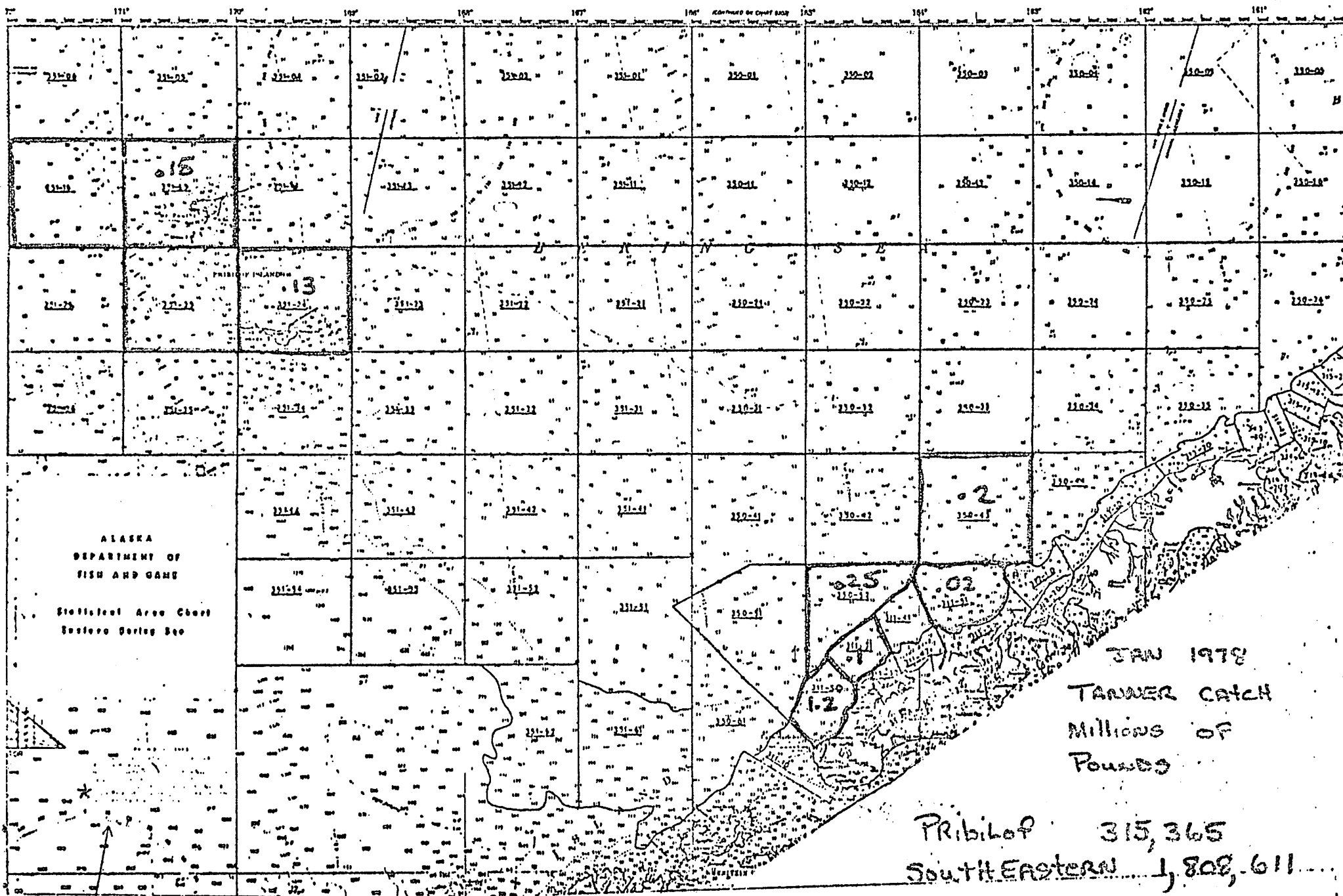
ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND GAME  
Statistical Area Chart  
Eastern Bering Sea



February 1978  
TANNER CATCH

Southeastward 6089066  
Pr. b. l. of 1631930

Total 7720996



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