

**D2 GOA Tanner crab  
Council Motion  
April 7, 2025**

The Council adopts the following Purpose and Need statement and alternatives for analysis.

**Purpose and Need:**

*Crab is a prohibited species in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries, and the Council has developed several time and area closures to minimize the impacts of groundfish fisheries on GOA crab. In recent years, new information about Tanner crab biology and management resulted in modifications to the harvest strategy and management measures for the state-managed GOA directed Tanner crab fishery. The Council is considering a new groundfish fishing area closure on the east side of Kodiak Island in areas known to have consistently high densities and abundance of Tanner crab. The Council is also considering a process to evaluate the effectiveness of existing groundfish fishery area closures around Kodiak Island, most of which were enacted in the late 1980s, to determine whether modifications are needed. Given the importance of crab and groundfish fisheries to the harvesting, processing and support sectors in the community of Kodiak, the Council intends to consider management actions that conserve and protect Tanner crab while minimizing negative impacts on Central GOA groundfish fisheries.*

**Alternative 1: Status Quo**

Alternatives 2 and 3 are not mutually exclusive.

**Alternative 2: Closure area**

Objectives for closure area: minimize groundfish fishery interactions with Tanner crab in areas off the east side of Kodiak Island 1) where high densities of Tanner crab are known to occur and 2) during life stages in which available information indicates that Tanner crab are vulnerable to fishery interactions.

The Council intends to establish criteria and a timeline to review the effectiveness of the closure area.

**Element 1: Closure Area**

Option 1: ADF&G statistical area 525702

Option 2: East side of Kodiak Island - Federal waters north of 56 degrees 54.6 minutes latitude and 152 degrees 16 minutes longitude (see reference figure)

**Element 2: Closure duration**

Option 1: Year-round

Option 2: Seasonal

a) Feb 15 – June 15 (current Type II closure dates)

b) April 1 – June 15 (directed Tanner fishery closure date by regulation through Tanner crab survey start date)

**Element 3: Gear types subject to closure**

Option 1: Groundfish Pot & Trawl (non-pelagic and pelagic) gear

Option 2: Non-pelagic trawl gear

**Alternative 3: Evaluate the existing Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area and all Type I, II and III closures around Kodiak Island for modification or removal**

The Council intends to review the objective of each existing crab protection area around Kodiak Island and biological, fishery independent and dependent information available for the area and consider options for modifications or removal.

