

## Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals applicable to BSAI Crab FMP stocks

Summary of actions taken at the statewide king and Tanner crab meeting, March 20 – 24, 2017:

Mgmt Area	Proposal number	Description	FMP category	BOF Action
Bering Sea	242	St. Matthew Island blue king crab harvest strategy. Correct regulations to accurately specify the percentage of mature male blue king crab used in setting TAC.	2 - TAC/GHL	Carried (7-0)
	245	Extend the closure line for the Norton Sound Section commercial king crab fishery.	2 - Closed waters	Failed (0-7)
	250	Allow full retention of incidentally taken legal male <i>C.opilio</i> when targeting <i>C.bairdi</i> in the Bering Sea west of 166° W long.	3 - Bycatch Limits	Carried as amended by RC 39 (7-0)
	251	Change season closure date from March 31 to April 15 for <i>C.bairdi</i> Tanner crab in waters west of 166° W long.	2 - Fishing Seasons	Failed (1-6)
	252	Allow vessel carrying an onboard observer to rig, bait, and set gear for new crab fishery before fully exiting the crab fishery for which the observer was briefed.	3 - Observers Gear Placement and Removal	Carried as amended by RC 26 (7-0)
	253	Allow vessels participating in rationalized crab fishery to rig, bait, and set pot gear for a new crab fishery prior to fully exiting the crab fishery for which the vessel is validly registered.	3 - Gear Placement and Removal	Carried as amended by RC 27 (7-0)
	254	Amend the description of hybrid Tanner crab so that hybrid designation is dependent upon the vessel's target Tanner crab fishery.	3 - Other	No Action - withdrawn by proposer
	255	Allow full retention of incidentally taken legal male <i>C.opilio</i> when targeting <i>C.bairdi</i> in the Bering Sea east of 166° W long.	3 - Bycatch Limits	No Action based on action taken on Proposal 250.
	256	Allow full retention of incidentally taken legal male <i>C.bairdi</i> when targeting Bristol Bay red king crab.	3 - Bycatch Limits	Failed (0-7)
	257	Extend the Bering Sea District eastern boundary for <i>C.opilio</i> from 166° W long. to 165° W long.	2 - Districts, Subdistricts, and Section Boundaries	Carried as amended by RC 40 (7-0)
	258	Extend the Bering Sea District eastern boundary for <i>C.bairdi</i> from 163° W long. to 162° W long.	2 - Districts, Subdistricts, and Section Boundaries	No Action - withdrawn by proposer
	259	Specify placement of escape rings and mesh on pot in St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery.	3 - Gear Modifications	Carried (7-0)
	260	Adopt ADF&G reference guide for <i>C.bairdi</i> and <i>C.opilio</i> to identify hybrid Tanner crab.	3 - Other	Carried (7-0)
261	Allow <i>C.opilio</i> bycatch retention up to 5% in the Bering Sea <i>C.bairdi</i> fishery east of 166° W long.	3 - Bycatch Limits	No Action based on action taken on Proposal 250.	
Aleutian Islands	263	Reduce onboard observer coverage rates and deployment periods for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery	3 - Observers	No Action - withdrawn by proposer
	264	Repeal provisions allowing concurrent harvest of red and golden king crab in the Aleutian Islands.	3 - Other	Carried (7-0)

RC 26

Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

March 21, 2017

Substitute Language for Proposal 252

5 AAC 39.645 (e) and 5 AAC 39.645 (d)(4)(D)(i) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 39.645. Shellfish onboard observer program.**

...

(e) In addition to the permit requirements in 5 AAC 34.055 and 5 AAC 35.055, the permit for a vessel that **participates in a** [PROCESSES]Tanner crab, red king crab, blue king crab, or golden king crab **fishery** must require that an observer, approved by the department [and provided by the permittee,]be briefed by the department for the fishery in which the vessel participates and that the observer be on board the vessel before the vessel obtains a tank inspection, before the vessel takes crab, before the start of and during all processing operations, **except for when a vessel has checked out of a fishery under 5AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(G) and has notified the department of its intent to deploy gear consistent with 5 AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(D).** For the purpose of 5 AAC 34.055 and 5 AAC 35.055, and 5 AAC 39.140, the observer is a representative of the department. All information collected by the observer is confidential property of the department. The department shall develop guidelines for approval of observers, including training requirements, conflict-of-interests standards, data collection schedules and standards, record keeping and reporting requirements, and other criteria needed to ensure accurate and objective reporting.

...

(d) Based on the findings in (a) – (c) of this section, the department shall institute a mandatory onboard observer program, as follows:

...

(4) to meet catcher vessel observer coverage requirements, a department approved crab fishery onboard observer must be on board the catcher vessel and acting in the capacity of a crab onboard observer in the following registration areas during the following prescribed time periods:

...

(D) for Tanner crab Registration Area J (Westward), Bering Sea District,

(i) during harvest of 30 percent of the total *C. opilio* (snow crab) weight harvested by each catcher vessel while operating fishing gear, during each registration year, or **during a period when the department randomly selects between 30 percent and 100 percent** [THE DEPARTMENT MAY RANDOMLY SELECT 30 PERCENT] of the catcher vessels harvesting Bering Sea *C. opilio* (snow crab) to carry onboard observers for 100 percent of the fishing time of each selected catcher vessel; and

...

RC 27

Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

March 21, 2017

Substitute Language for Proposal 253

5 AAC 39.670(c)(3)(D) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 39.670. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Crab Fisheries Management Plan.**

...

(c) The following provisions apply to the fisheries specified in this section:

...

(3) each crab pot deployed must bear the ADF&G number of the vessel that initially registers the crab pot, and if deployed in a fishery with a crab pot limit, each pot must bear a buoy tag registered to the vessel registering that pot; in addition,

...

(D) a vessel's crab pot gear may not be deployed unless the vessel is actively participating in harvesting the species in the applicable area; **except for when a vessel has checked out of a fishery under 5AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(G) and has notified the department of its intent to deploy gear consistent with 5 AAC 39.670 (c)(3)(D).**

...

RC 39

Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game on behalf of board member Ruffner.

March 22, 2017

Substitute Language for Proposal 250 and 255

5 AAC 39.670(c)(5) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 39.670. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Crab Fisheries Management Plan.**

...

(c) The following provisions apply to the fisheries specified in this section:

...

(5) a vessel operator may harvest EBT and BBR, or WBT and BSS, or EBT and BSS, concurrently as follows :

...

**(D) a vessel operator participating in the EBT fishery may retain BSS as incidental harvest as specified in 5 AAC 35.506 (j)**

5 AAC 35.50(j) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 35.506. Registration Area J.**

...

(j) In the Bering Sea District, a vessel operator that is registered to fish for *C. bairdi* Tanner crab [WEST OF 166° W. LONG.] may also retain *C. opilio* Tanner crab in an amount not to exceed [FIVE] **thirty five** percent of the weight of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab on board the vessel and reported on an ADF &G fish ticket.

...

**RC 40**

**Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.**

**March 21, 2017**

**Substitute Language for Proposal 257**

5 AAC 35 .506(i) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 35.506. Registration Area J.**

...

(i) [WEST OF 166° W. LONG.] in a directed *C. bairdi* Tanner crab fishery or as incidental harvest while the vessel operator is registered for the *C. opilio* Tanner crab fishery; a vessel operator that is registered to fish for *C. opilio* Tanner crab in the Bering Sea District, may retain *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in an amount not to exceed five percent of the weight of the *C. opilio* Tanner crab on board the vessel and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket.

...

5 AAC 39.670(c)(5) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 39.670. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Crab Fisheries Management Plan.**

...

(c) The following provisions apply to the fisheries specified in this section:

...

(5) a vessel operator may harvest EBT and BBR, or WBT and BSS, or EBT and BSS, concurrently as follows :

...

**(E) a vessel operator participating in the BSS fishery may retain EBT as incidental harvest as specified in 5 AAC 35.506 (i)**

...