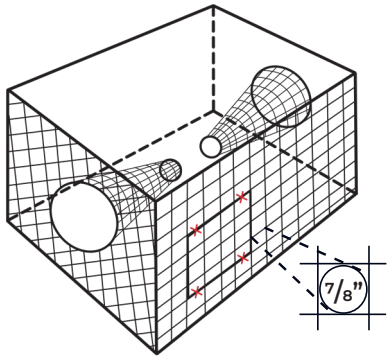
SHELLFISH REGULATIONS
POT REQUIREMENTS SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

RIGID MESH POTS:

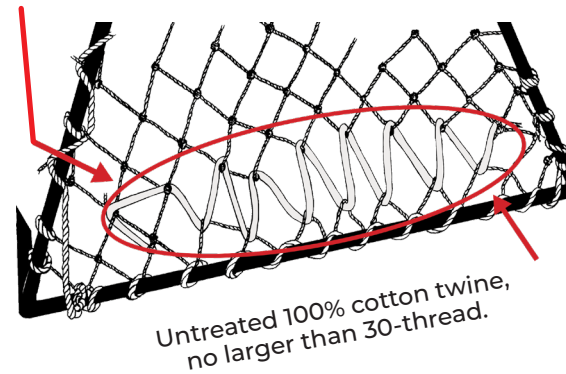
- See permit for specific pot requirements for each shellfish fishery.
- Pots must have at least one opening in a sidewall, which may include the tunnel.
- The opening of a king crab or Tanner crab pot must be equal to or exceed a 12 inch by 8 inch rectangle, and the opening of a shrimp pot must be at least the size of a 4 inch square.
- The opening may be covered with a single panel secured to pot with no more than four single loops of 100% untreated cotton twine no larger than 30-thread.
- Each loop may only contain one knot and cannot be tied or looped around the web bars.
- The panel must be attached so that when the twine degrades, the panel will drop away from the opening.
- The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and parallel to it.



NET MESH POTS:

- Pots must have a sidewall, which may include a tunnel, with an opening equal to or exceeding 18 inches in length for crab pots and 6 inches or greater in length for shrimp pots.
- The opening must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated 100% cotton twine no larger than 30-thread.
- The cotton twine may be knotted at each end only.
- The opening must be within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot and parallel to it. The cotton twine cannot be tied or looped around the web bars.

Opening at least 18" long (6" for shrimp pots) - no more than 6" from bottom of pot and parallel to it.



BUOY REQUIREMENTS: A keg or buoy attached to a pot must be plainly and legibly inscribed with the fisher's first initial, last name, home address, and the name or AK boat registration number of the vessel used to operate the pot. Adding your phone number is also recommended. In Cook Inlet (including North Gulf Coast) waters, no portion of the line attaching the buoy to the crab pot may float on the surface. The line connecting the main buoy to auxiliary buoys may float.

ESCAPEMENT MECHANISMS REQUIRED: All pots must have a biodegradable escape mechanism. In addition, crab pots must contain two escape rings no less than 4⅜ inches in diameter.

LEGAL GEAR: **Clams** may be taken only with rakes, shovels, manually operated clam guns, or by hand. **Crab** may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless hand lines. **Shrimp** may be taken only with pots.

LICENSE: A valid sport fishing license, PID or DV card is required and must be in your possession when harvesting and/or transporting shellfish for sport or personal use.

LIMITS: Sport fishing bag and possession limits given here for shellfish are not in addition to those allowed under subsistence or personal use fishing regulations. Once a bag limit is removed from a pot, that pot may not be returned to the water containing any live crab.

MINIMUM SIZE: No person may take or possess shellfish smaller than the legal size.

MUTILATION OR DISFIGUREMENT PROHIBITED: No one may mutilate or otherwise disfigure a crab in any manner that prevents determination of its sex and/or minimum size restrictions until it has been processed or prepared for consumption. Only whole crab, cooked or uncooked, may be taken off a vessel.

NEW **PERMITS REQUIRED:** A shellfish harvest permit is required and must be in your possession when taking **shrimp** in Prince William Sound and the North Gulf Coast areas, **crab** in Cook Inlet, North Gulf Coast, and Prince William Sound areas, and **razor clams in Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast areas**.

SHELLFISH POT TAMPERING PROHIBITED: It is illegal to disturb, tamper with, or pull another angler's pots without prior permission of the pot's owner.

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SHELLFISH REGULATIONS
SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

SPECIES	COOK INLET & KACHEMAK BAY	NORTH GULF COAST	PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
TANNER CRAB	Season: Oct. 1-Feb. 28		Season: Oct. 1-Mar. 31
	Permit & harvest report required. Reporting required by March 15		Permit & harvest report required. Reporting required.
	See permit for open areas, season, gear, and limits. Only whole crab may be taken off a vessel.		
DUNGENESS CRAB	CLOSED TO SPORT & PERSONAL USE	CLOSED	CLOSED TO SPORT
GOLDEN KING CRAB	CLOSED		
SHRIMP	CLOSED	Personal Use Only	Sport or Subsistence
		Permit & harvest report required. See permit for open areas, season, gear, and limits.	
BUTTER OR LITTLENECK CLAMS	CLOSED		Open year-round. No permit required. No bag or possession limits.
RAZOR CLAMS	Permit & harvest report required. Reporting required by Dec. 31, 2026.		
	NEW For 2026 Permit Alert: *A household permit is required for razor clam fisheries; one permit is issued per household. See permit for open areas, season, gear, and limits.		Open year-round. No bag or possession limits.
	East side Cook Inlet beaches from the mouth of the Kenai River south to the tip of the Homer Spit: • Closed to all clamming unless opened by emergency order. West Cook Inlet beaches: • 10 gallons per day, 10 gallons in possession. • All razor clams dug must be retained.	10 gallons per day, 10 gallons in possession. All razor clams dug must be retained.	*Exception: In waters east of 146 W. longitude and south of a line from the southern-most tip of Point Bentinck (Hinchinbrook Island) to the southernmost tip of Point Whitshed: • Razor clam size limits apply and permit available at the Cordova ADF&G office.
OTHER SHELLFISH INCLUDING OCTOPUS & SQUID	Open year-round. No bag or possession limits. **Squid:** May be taken using no more than two squid jigs attached to a single line. A squid jig is an artificial lure that may not exceed 24 inches in total length, consists of barbless hook clusters and may not contain any barbed hooks.		

Stay legal - check emergency orders at www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR.
Permits are available online at http://store.adfg.alaska.gov.
Fishery information is provided on each permit.
See page 10 for sport and personal use shellfish guide regulations.
See page 81 for shellfish pot regulations.

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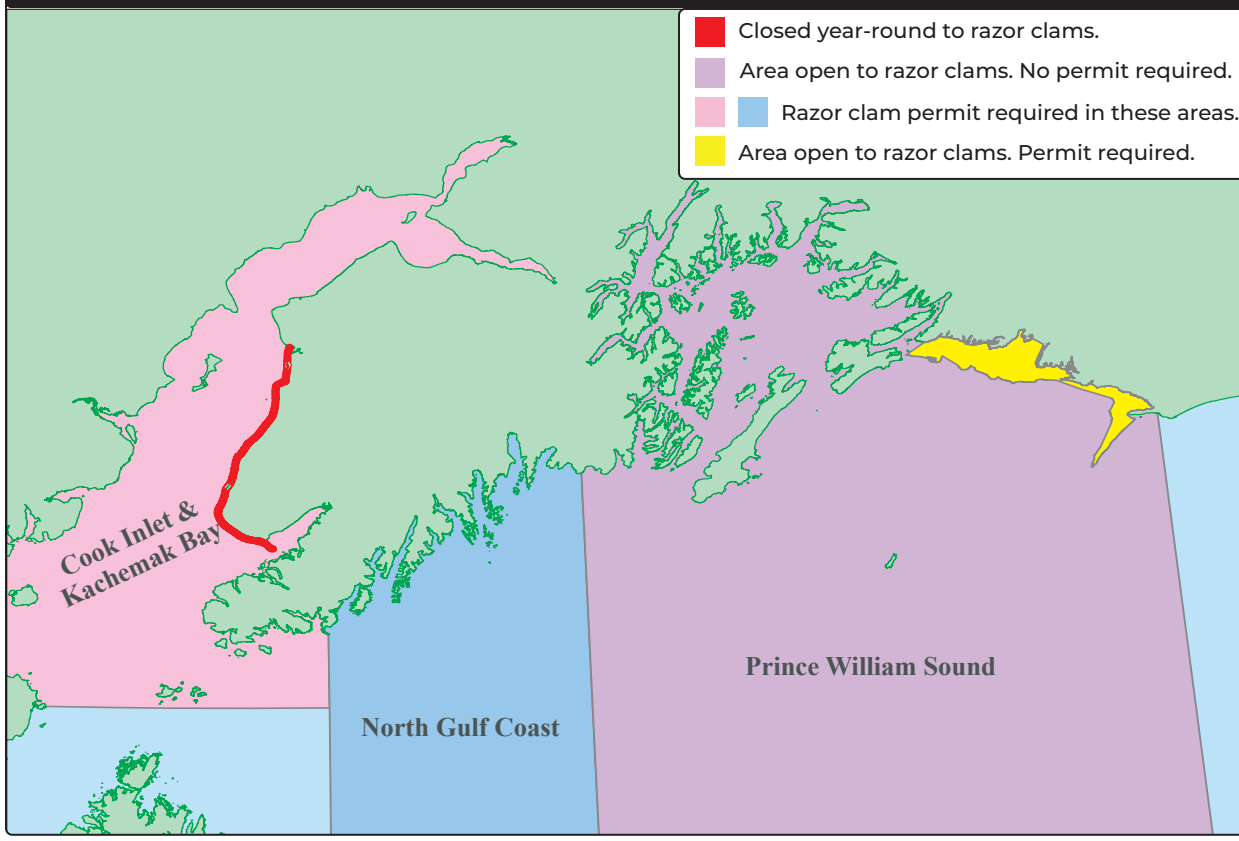
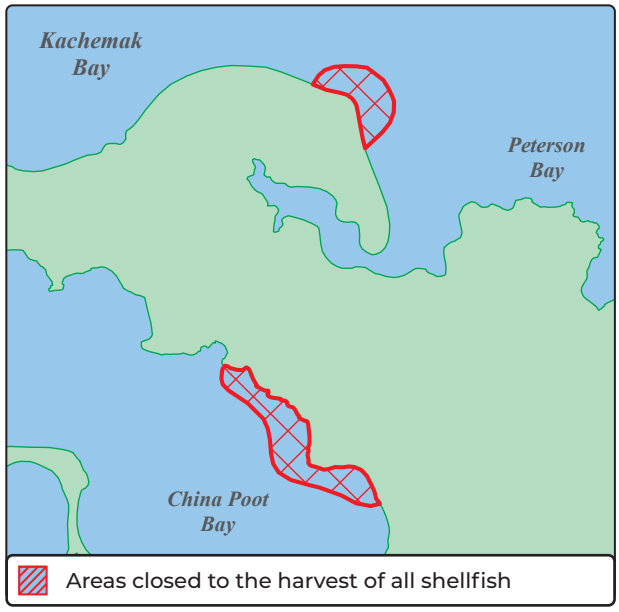
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREAS





CHINA POOT & PETERSON BAY (KACHEMAK BAY):

- Intertidal beaches between ADF&G markers along Shipwreck Cove and around Otter Rock:
  - Closed to the harvest of all shellfish.

Charles Cox & Loren Tisdell, razor clams, West Cook Inlet

Please report lost pots or gear to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

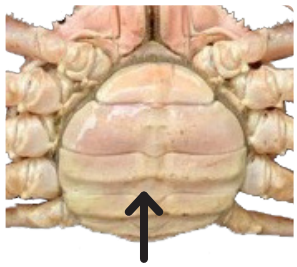
Cordova AWT (907) 424-3184 | Valdez AWT (907) 835-4307 | Whittier AWT (907) 352-5401
Homer (Soldotna Dispatch) AWT (907) 262-4453 | Seward AWT (907) 224-3935

SHELLFISH REGULATIONS
CRAB ID AND MEASUREMENTS

TANNER CRAB

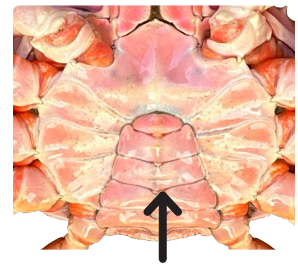
Minimum size 4½ inches, Prince William Sound - minimum 5 inches

FEMALE
NO HARVEST ALLOWED

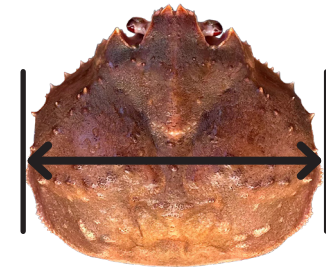


A wide uneven abdominal flap covers most of the underside, with females typically smaller than 5½ inches

MALE



A narrow triangular abdominal flap covers the underside



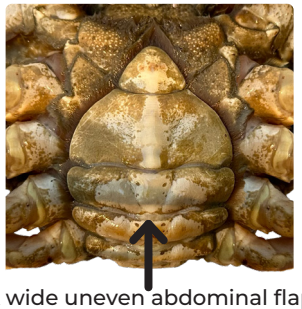
+4.5 inches

The width of a Tanner crab is measured as the straight-line distance across the carapace, **including** the spines

DUNGENESS CRAB

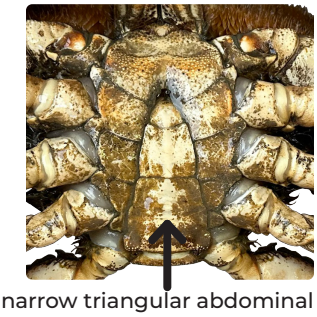
All of Southcentral Alaska is closed to sport crabbing for Dungeness crab.

FEMALE
NO HARVEST ALLOWED



A wide uneven abdominal flap covers most of the underside

MALE



A narrow triangular abdominal flap covers the underside

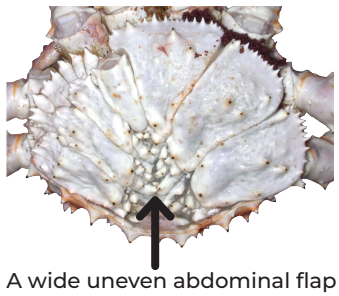
The width of a Dungeness crab is measured as the straight-line distance across the carapace, **excluding** the spines

GOLDEN KING CRAB

Prince William Sound is only open to golden king crab (subsistence) - **minimum size 7 inches**

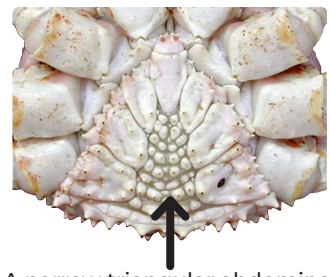
The rest of Southcentral Alaska is closed to crabbing for all species of king crab.

FEMALE
NO HARVEST ALLOWED



A wide uneven abdominal flap covers most of the underside

MALE

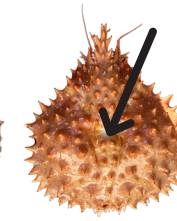


A narrow triangular abdominal flap covers the underside

6 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate

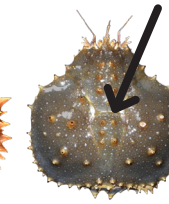
RED KING CRAB

5 to 9 spines on mid-dorsal plate



GOLDEN KING CRAB

4 prominent spines on mid-dorsal plate



BLUE KING CRAB