

C-5 GOA Tanner crab bycatch motion  
**FINAL MOTION AS RECONSIDERED - October 11, 2010**

The Council adopts the following amended problem statement and preferred alternative for final action:

Problem Statement:

*Tanner crab are a prohibited species bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries. Directed fisheries for Tanner crab in the GOA are fully allocated under the current limited entry system. No specific conservation measures exist in the GOA to address adverse interactions with Tanner crab by trawl and fixed gear sectors targeting groundfish and low observer coverage in GOA groundfish fisheries limits confidence in the assessment of Tanner crab bycatch in those fisheries, and a greater level of observer coverage in the appropriate areas may provide the Council with a higher level of confidence in the assessment of any bycatch occurring in the designated areas as a basis for future management actions as necessary. Trawl sweep modifications have been effective in reducing unobserved bycatch mortality of Tanner crab in the Bering Sea, and similar effects may be realized in the Gulf of Alaska if modified trawl sweeps are employed in those groundfish fisheries.*

Alternative 2: Close the areas specified below to trawl groundfish fisheries.

Component 1: Area definition

*ADF&G Northeast Section*

Option 1: Statistical Area 525807 and the area east of Statistical Area 525807 north of 58 degrees latitude, south of 58 degrees 15 min. latitude and west the longitude line extending north from the eastern boundary of the Type 1 red king crab closure area.

Component 2: Closure timing

Option 1: Year round

Suboption 1: trawl gear

Suboption 5: Vessels using pelagic trawl gear to directed fish for pollock would be exempt from the closures

Component 3: Observer coverage for pot groundfish fishery

In order to fish in the area, require 30% observer coverage on all pot groundfish vessels less than 125 feet. Note, fishing days and observer coverage in these areas would be separate from and not count towards meeting a vessel's overall 30% groundfish observer coverage requirement. The Council encourages the agency to incorporate, to the extent possible, in the new fee-based observer program, an observer deployment strategy that ensures adequate coverage to establish statistically robust observations in the area described.

Alternative 3: In order to fish in the areas specified below, require 100% observer coverage on all non-pelagic trawl groundfish vessels and 30% observer coverage on all pot groundfish vessels less than 125 feet. Note, fishing days and observer coverage in these areas would be separate from and not count towards meeting a vessel's overall 30% groundfish observer coverage requirement. The Council encourages the agency to incorporate, to the extent possible, in the new fee-based observer program, an observer deployment strategy that ensures adequate coverage to establish statistically robust observations in the areas described below.

Area definition

*ADF&G Northeast Section*

Option 2: Chiniak Gully (Four corners at 152°19'34" W x 57°49'24" N by 57°29' N x 151°20'W by 57°20' N x 151°20'W by 57° x 152°9'20' W), excluding State waters

*ADF&G Eastside Section*

Option 3: Statistical Area 525702

Develop a trailing amendment to require trawl vessels to use approved modified gear, e.g. trawl sweep modifications, in the Central GOA nonpelagic trawl fishery.

It is expected that NMFS initiate an iterative process similar to that used to develop trawl sweep specifications in the BSAI in order to implement the trawl sweep requirement and reduce the footprint in the GOA by bottom trawls.

[Deeming language]