

**Council motion – April 2010**  
**D-3(a) GOA Tanner crab bycatch**

*The Council requests staff modify the analysis to include the below revisions (relative to the March 2010 initial review draft), expand the analysis to address enforcement and SSC comments, and release for public review.*

**Purpose and Need**

*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 ~~significant~~, 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. Tanner crab stocks have been rebuilding since peak fisheries occurred in the late 1970s. Specific protection measures should be advanced to facilitate stock rebuilding.*

**Alternatives**

Alternative 1: Status Quo – No action

Alternative 2: Close the areas specified below to pot and trawl ~~all~~ groundfish (~~trawl, pot, and longline~~) 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 of 151 degrees 30 min. longitude.

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

ADF&G Southeast Section

Option 4: Statistical Area 525630

Component 2: Closure timing

Option 1: Year round

Suboption 1: trawl gear

Suboption 2: pot gear

~~Suboption 3: longline gear~~

Suboption ~~4~~ 3: Vessels using approved, modified gear would be exempt from closures (e.g., trawl sweep modifications or pot escape mechanisms)

Suboption ~~5~~ 4: Vessels using pelagic trawl gear would be exempt from closures

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

Option 2: Seasonally (January 1 – July 31)

Suboption 1: trawl gear

Suboption 2: pot gear

~~Suboption 3: longline gear~~

Suboption 4 ~~3~~: Vessels using approved, modified gear would be exempt from closures (e.g., trawl sweep modifications or pot escape mechanisms)

Suboption ~~5~~ ~~4~~: Vessels using pelagic trawl gear would be exempt from closures

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

Alternative 3: In order to fish in these areas specified below, require 100% observer coverage on all trawl groundfish (trawl, pot, and longline)-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.

#### Area definition

##### ADF&G Northeast Section

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##### ADF&G Eastside Section

Option 3: Statistical Area 525702

##### ADF&G Southeast Section

Option 4: Statistical Area 525630

Note: A combination of alternatives, options, and suboptions may be selected.

