



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: February 18, 2026

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2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL TANNER CRAB FISHING SEASON

The commercial Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska (Registration Area A) will open concurrently on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**, due to the season opening weather delay of 24-hours [5 AAC 35.110(b)] which was announced Monday, February 16, 2026.

The Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy [5 AAC 35.113] establishes commercial Tanner crab fishing season length using estimated mature male biomass and the number of registered pots at the start of the fishery. As of Wednesday, February 18, 2026, there are 56 pot vessels and 4,460 pots registered for the 2026 commercial Tanner crab fishery. At the current estimated mature male biomass and effort level of 4,460 registered pots, the harvest strategy provides **one additional day** of season length in the “core”, “non-core”, and “inside exploratory” areas. The 2026 commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will open in “core”, “non-core”, “inside exploratory”, and “outside exploratory” areas (described in 5 AAC 35.113(c)) on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** The season will close in “core” fishing areas after six fishing days, on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** The “non-core”, “inside exploratory” areas, and “outside exploratory” areas will remain open for an additional five days; after the “non-core” areas close to fishing on **Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**, the “inside exploratory” areas and “outside exploratory” areas will remain open for an additional fourteen days; following the closure of “inside exploratory” areas to fishing on **Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**, the “outside exploratory” areas will remain open through **Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**

Shellfish management staff will be available in Douglas and Petersburg for permit holders during the duration of the Tanner crab fishery, including the first two weekends in an “on-call” capacity. For assistance during the first two weekends of the Tanner crab fishery please contact shellfish staff in Petersburg or Douglas at the following phone numbers:

Petersburg: Tessa Bergmann (907) 772-5236 tessa.bergmann@alaska.gov
Douglas: Adam Messmer (907) 465-4853 adam.messmer@alaska.gov
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The emergency orders corresponding with this announcement are EOs 1C4126, 1C4226, and 1C4326.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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| ADF&G | 225-5195 | 772-3801 | | 747-6688 | 465-4250 | 766-2830 | 784-3255 |
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