

§ 242.28

36 CFR Ch. II (7-1-01 Edition)

§ 242.28 Subsistence taking of shellfish.

(a) Regulations in this section apply to subsistence taking of Dungeness crab, king crab, Tanner crab, shrimp, clams, abalone, and other shellfish or their parts.

(b) *Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply to all regulations contained in this section:

*Abalone iron* means a flat device which is used for taking abalone and which is more than 1 inch (24 mm) in width and less than 24 inches (610 mm) in length, with all prying edges rounded and smooth.

*ADF&G* means the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

*Crab* means the following species: red king crab (*Paralithodes camshatica*); blue king crab (*Paralithodes platypus*); brown king crab (*Lithodes aequispina*); *Lithodes couesi*; all species of tanner or snow crab (*Chionoecetes* spp.); and Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*).

*Diving gear* means any type of hard hat or skin diving equipment, including SCUBA equipment; a tethered, umbilical, surface-supplied unit; or snorkel.

*Gear* means any type of fishing apparatus.

*Grappling hook* means a hooked device with flukes or claws, which is attached to a line and operated by hand.

*Handline* means a hand-held and operated line, with one or more hooks attached.

*Harvest limit* means the maximum legal take per person or designated group, per specified time period, in the area in which the person is fishing, even if part or all of the shellfish are preserved.

*Household* means a person or persons having the same residence.

*Hydraulic clam digger* means a device using water or a combination of air and water used to harvest clams.

*Mechanical clam digger* means a mechanical device used or capable of being used for the taking of clams.

*Mile* means a nautical mile when used in reference to marine waters or a statute mile when used in reference to fresh water.

*Possession limit* means the maximum number of shellfish a person or designated group may have in possession

if the shellfish have not been canned, salted, frozen, smoked, dried, or otherwise preserved so as to be fit for human consumption after a 15-day period.

*Pot* means a portable structure designed and constructed to capture and retain live fish and shellfish in the water.

*Ring net* means a bag-shaped net suspended between no more than two frames; the bottom frame may not be larger in perimeter than the top frame; the gear must be nonrigid and collapsible so that free movement of fish or shellfish across the top of the net is not prohibited when the net is employed.

*Scallop dredge* means a dredge-like device designed specifically for and capable of taking scallops by being towed along the ocean floor.

*Sea urchin rake* means a hand-held implement, no longer than 4 feet, equipped with projecting prongs used to gather sea urchins.

*Shovel* means a hand-operated implement for digging clams.

*Subsistence fishing permit* means a permit issued by ADF&G, unless specifically identified otherwise.

*To operate fishing gear* means any of the following: to deploy gear in the water; to remove gear from the water; to remove fish or shellfish from the gear during an open season or period; or to possess a gillnet containing fish during an open fishing period, except that a gillnet which is completely clear of the water is not considered to be operating for the purposes of minimum distance requirement.

*Trawl* means a bag-shaped net towed through the water to capture fish or shellfish, and includes beam, otter, or pelagic trawl.

(c) You may take shellfish for subsistence uses at any time in any area of the public lands by any method unless restricted by this section.

(d) Methods, means, and general restrictions. (1) The harvest limit specified in this section for a subsistence season for a species and the State harvest limit set for a State season for the same species are not cumulative. This means that if you have taken the harvest limit for a particular species under a subsistence season specified in this section, you may not, after that,

take any additional shellfish of that species under any other harvest limit specified for a State season.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in this section or under terms of a required subsistence fishing permit (as may be modified by this section), you may use the following legal types of gear to take shellfish:

- (i) Abalone iron;
- (ii) Diving gear;
- (iii) A grappling hook;
- (iv) A handline;
- (v) A hydraulic clam digger;
- (vi) A mechanical clam digger;
- (vii) A pot;
- (viii) A ring net;
- (ix) A scallop dredge;
- (x) A sea urchin rake;
- (xi) A shovel; and
- (xii) A trawl.

(3) You are prohibited from buying or selling subsistence-taken shellfish, their parts, or their eggs, unless otherwise specified.

(4) You may not use explosives and chemicals, except that you may use chemical baits or lures to attract shellfish.

(5) Marking requirements for subsistence shellfish gear are as follows:

(i) You shall plainly and legibly inscribe your first initial, last name, and address on a keg or buoy attached to unattended subsistence fishing gear, except when fishing through the ice, you may substitute for the keg or buoy, a stake inscribed with your first initial, last name, and address inserted in the ice near the hole; subsistence fishing gear may not display a permanent ADF&G vessel license number;

(ii) kegs or buoys attached to subsistence crab pots also must be inscribed with the name or United States Coast Guard number of the vessel used to operate the pots.

(6) Pots used for subsistence fishing must comply with the escape mechanism requirements found in § 242.27.

(7) You may not mutilate or otherwise disfigure a crab in any manner which would prevent determination of the minimum size restrictions until the crab has been processed or prepared for consumption.

(e) Taking shellfish by designated harvest permit. (1) Any species of shellfish that may be taken by subsistence

fishing under this part may be taken under a designated harvest permit.

(2) If you are a Federally-qualified subsistence user (beneficiary), you may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take shellfish on your behalf. The designated fisherman must obtain a designated harvest permit prior to attempting to harvest shellfish and must return a completed harvest report. The designated fisherman may harvest for any number of beneficiaries but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.

(3) The designated fisherman must have in possession a valid designated harvest permit when taking, attempting to take, or transporting shellfish taken under this section, on behalf of a beneficiary.

(4) You may not fish with more than one legal limit of gear as established by this section.

(5) You may not designate more than one person to take or attempt to take shellfish on your behalf at one time. You may not personally take or attempt to take shellfish at the same time that a designated fisherman is taking or attempting to take shellfish on your behalf.

(f) If a subsistence shellfishing permit is required by this section, the following conditions apply unless otherwise specified by the subsistence regulations in this section:

(1) You may not take shellfish for subsistence in excess of the limits set out in the permit unless a different limit is specified in this section;

(2) You must obtain a permit prior to subsistence fishing;

(3) You must have the permit in your possession and readily available for inspection while taking or transporting the species for which the permit is issued;

(4) The permit may designate the species and numbers of shellfish to be harvested, time and area of fishing, the type and amount of fishing gear and other conditions necessary for management or conservation purposes;

(5) If specified on the permit, you shall keep accurate daily records of the catch involved, showing the number of shellfish taken by species, location and

date of the catch, and such other information as may be required for management or conservation purposes;

(6) You must complete and submit subsistence fishing reports at the time specified for each particular area and fishery;

(7) If the return of catch information necessary for management and conservation purposes is required by a subsistence fishing permit and you fail to comply with such reporting requirements, you are ineligible to receive a subsistence permit for that activity during the following calendar year, unless you demonstrate that failure to report was due to loss in the mail, accident, sickness, or other unavoidable circumstances.

(g) Subsistence take by commercial vessels. No fishing vessel which is commercially licensed and registered for shrimp pot, shrimp trawl, king crab, Tanner crab, or Dungeness crab fishing may be used for subsistence take during the period starting 14 days before an opening until 14 days after the closure of a respective open season in the area or areas for which the vessel is registered. However, if you are a commercial fisherman, you may retain shellfish for your own use from your lawfully taken commercial catch.

(h) You may not take or possess shellfish smaller than the minimum legal size limits.

(i) Unlawful possession of subsistence shellfish. You may not possess, transport, give, receive, or barter shellfish or their parts taken in violation of Federal or State regulations.

(j)(1) An owner, operator, or employee of a lodge, charter vessel, or other enterprise that furnishes food, lodging, or guide services may not furnish to a client or guest of that enterprise, shellfish that has been taken under this chapter, unless:

(i) The shellfish has been taken with gear deployed and retrieved by the client or guest who is a federally-qualified subsistence user;

(ii) The gear has been marked with the client's or guest's name and address; and

(iii) The shellfish is to be consumed by the client or guest or is consumed in the presence of the client or guest.

(2) The captain and crewmembers of a charter vessel may not deploy, set, or retrieve their own gear in a subsistence shellfish fishery when that vessel is being chartered.

(k) Subsistence shellfish areas and pertinent restrictions. (1) *Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area*. No marine waters are currently identified under Federal subsistence management jurisdiction.

(2) *Prince William Sound Area*. No marine waters are currently identified under Federal subsistence management jurisdiction.

(3) *Cook Inlet Area*. You may not take shellfish for subsistence purposes.

(4) *Kodiak Area*. (i) You may take crab for subsistence purposes only under the authority of a subsistence crab fishing permit issued by the ADF&G.

(ii) The operator of a commercially licensed and registered shrimp fishing vessel must obtain a subsistence fishing permit from the ADF&G before subsistence shrimp fishing during a closed commercial shrimp fishing season or within a closed commercial shrimp fishing district, section, or subsection. The permit shall specify the area and the date the vessel operator intends to fish. No more than 500 pounds (227 kg) of shrimp may be in possession aboard the vessel.

(iii) The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Dungeness crabs per person; only male Dungeness crabs with a shell width of 6½ inches or greater may be taken or possessed. Taking of Dungeness crab is prohibited in water 25 fathoms or more in depth during the 14 days immediately before the opening of a commercial king or Tanner crab fishing season in the location.

(iv) In the subsistence taking of king crab:

(A) The annual limit is six crabs per household; only male king crab may be taken or possessed;

(B) All crab pots used for subsistence fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a 2-week period shall have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open;

(C) You may not use more than five crab pots, each being no more than 75

cubic feet in capacity to take king crab;

(D) You may take king crab only from June 1–January 31, except that the subsistence taking of king crab is prohibited in waters 25 fathoms or greater in depth during the period 14 days before and 14 days after open commercial fishing seasons for red king crab, blue king crab, or Tanner crab in the location;

(E) The waters of the Pacific Ocean enclosed by the boundaries of Womens Bay, Gibson Cove, and an area defined by a line ½ mile on either side of the mouth of the Karluk River, and extending seaward 3,000 feet, and all waters within 1,500 feet seaward of the shoreline of Afognak Island are closed to the harvest of king crab except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

(v) In the subsistence taking of Tanner crab:

(A) You may not use more than five crab pots to take Tanner crab;

(B) You may not take Tanner crab in waters 25 fathoms or greater in depth during the 14 days immediately before the opening of a commercial king or Tanner crab fishing season in the location;

(C) The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male crab with a shell width 5½ inches or greater per person.

(5) *Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area.* (i) The operator of a commercially licensed and registered shrimp fishing vessel must obtain a subsistence fishing permit from the ADF&G prior to subsistence shrimp fishing during a closed commercial shrimp fishing season or within a closed commercial shrimp fishing district, section, or subsection; the permit shall specify the area and the date the vessel operator intends to fish; no more than 500 pounds (227 kg) of shrimp may be in possession aboard the vessel.

(ii) The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Dungeness crabs per person; only crabs with a shell width of 5½ inches or greater may be taken or possessed.

(iii) In the subsistence taking of king crab:

(A) The daily harvest and possession limit is six male crabs per person; only crabs with a shell width of 6½ inches or greater may be taken or possessed;

(B) All crab pots used for subsistence fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a 2-week period shall have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open;

(C) You may take crabs only from June 1–January 31.

(iv) The daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Tanner crabs per person; only crabs with a shell width of 5½ inches or greater may be taken or possessed.

(6) *Bering Sea Area.* (i) In that portion of the area north of the latitude of Cape Newenham, shellfish may only be taken by shovel, jigging gear, pots, and ring net.

(ii) The operator of a commercially licensed and registered shrimp fishing vessel must obtain a subsistence fishing permit from the ADF&G prior to subsistence shrimp fishing during a closed commercial shrimp fishing season or within a closed commercial shrimp fishing district, section, or subsection; the permit shall specify the area and the date the vessel operator intends to fish; no more than 500 pounds (227 kg) of shrimp may be in possession aboard the vessel.

(iii) In waters south of 60° N. lat., the daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Dungeness crabs per person.

(iv) In the subsistence taking of king crab:

(A) In waters south of 60° N. lat., the daily harvest and possession limit is six male crab per person;

(B) All crab pots used for subsistence fishing and left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period shall have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open;

(C) In waters south of 60° N. lat., you may take crab only from June 1–January 31;

(D) In the Norton Sound Section of the Northern District, you must have a subsistence permit.

(v) In waters south of 60° N. lat., the daily harvest and possession limit is 12 male Tanner crab.

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EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 66 FR 10158, Feb. 13, 2001, §242.28 was added, effective Mar. 1, 2001, through Feb. 28, 2002.