

Findings of the Alaska Board of Fisheries
Ring Net Gear for King and Tanner Crab
Southeast Alaska

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has considered requests to delete ring nets as authorized gear for the commercial harvest of king and Tanner crab in Southeast Alaska. The request to ban ring net gear came from certain pot fishermen after the red and brown king crab and Tanner crab pot fisheries were put under limited entry in 1985. Since ring net gear was not limited by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, some pot fishers fear that the number of ring net fishers will grow and increase in efficiency, thereby displacing harvest that would otherwise have gone to pot fishermen.

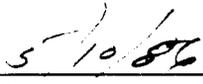
The board has elected not to ban ring net gear because some individuals, both before and after the imposition of limited entry in the pot fisheries, would have been unnecessarily harmed. Rather, the board has defined ring nets in a manner that should prevent it from becoming a more efficient gear type. Further, the board will from time to time review the share of king and Tanner crab harvest by this gear type and may impose further restrictions on the ring net fishery to correct any substantial increase in its harvest compared to the pot fishery.

Further restrictions could include a more restrictive definition of the gear, a limit on the ring nets operated per vessel, or an actual harvest limit (within pounds or a percentage of overall crab harvest) for the ring net fishermen.

Those who intend to participate in the king and Tanner crab ring net fishery should do so understanding that the board will further restrict the conduct of this fishery as required in light of these findings.



Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries



Date