

AMENDMENT 37 - TEXT TO AMEND THE FMP FOR THE GROUND FISH FISHERY
OF THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA

1. In Chapter 2.0, section entitled "History and Summary of Amendments," add the following:

Amendment 37 implemented on _____, 1996

(1) Established a non-pelagic trawl closure area called the Red King Crab Savings Area, a trawl closure area called the Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure, and revised the red king crab prohibited species catch limits.

2. In Section 14.4.2.2 entitled "Prohibited Species Catch Limits" paragraphs A and B are amended as follow:

A. The trawl fisheries are limited to a PSC of 1,000,000 C. baridi tanner crab in Zone 1 in any fishing year.

B. Red king crab. A Zone 1 PSC limit for red king crab is established in the following manner:

When the number of mature female red king crab is below or equal to the threshold of 8.4 million mature crab or the effective spawning biomass is less than 14.5 million lb. the Zone 1 PSC limit will be 35,000 red king crab.

When the number of mature female red king crab is above the threshold of 8.4 million mature crab and the effective spawning biomass is equal to or greater than 14.5 but less than 55 million lb. the Zone 1 PSC limit will be 100,000 red king crab.

When the number of mature female red king crab is above the threshold of 8.4 million mature crab, and the effective spawning biomass is equal to or greater than 55 million lb. the Zone 1 PSC limit will be 200,000 red king crab.

3. In chapter 14 entitled "Management Regime," the following sections are amended:

Under Section 14.4.3. entitled "Fishing Area Restrictions,"

In Section 14.4.3.2, entitled "Trawl Fishery," paragraph G and H are added to read as follows:

G. Red King Crab Savings Area (RKCSA). (As described in Appendix III and Figure 27f)--Closed to non-pelagic trawling year round, except that when the Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, in consultation with the Council, determines

that a guideline harvest level for Bristol Bay red king crab has been established he or she may open a subarea of the RKCSA between 56°00' and 56°10' N. lat. and 162°00 and 164°00 W. long. to non-pelagic trawling.

H. Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure. (As described in Appendix III and Figure 27g)--Closed to all trawling on a year round basis, with the exception of a subarea bounded by 159°00 and 160°00 W. long. and 58°00 and 58°43' N. lat. that remains open to trawling during the period April 1 to June 15 each year.

4. In Appendix III, entitled "Description of Closed areas, add number 11 and 12 as follows:

11. Red King Crab Savings Area Non-pelagic trawling is prohibited year round within the area bounded by a straight line connecting the following pairs of coordinates in the order listed below, with the exception that a subarea of the Red King Crab Savings Area may be opened as outlined in Section 14.4.3.2.(G):

56°00'N., 162°00'W.;
56°00'N., 164°00'W.;
57°00'N., 164°00'W.;
57°00'N., 162°00'W.;
56°00'N., 162°00'W.

12. Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure. All trawling is prohibited year round in Bristol Bay, as described in the current edition of NOAA chart 16006, east of 162° W. long., with the exception that the area bounded by a straight line connecting the following pairs of coordinates in the order listed below would be open to trawling during the period April 1 to June 15 each year:

58°00'N., 160°00'W.;
58°43'N., 160°00'W.;
58°43'N., 159°00'W.;
58°00'N., 159°00'W.;
58°00'N., 160°00'W.