

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH &
GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 1-C-09-07

Issued at: Juneau

Effective Date: July 14, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Date: July 6, 2007

Expiration Date: March 31, 2008

unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order closes the personal use fishery for red and blue king crab in Section 11-A for the 2007/08 season.

REGULATORY TEXT: 5 AAC 77.664 PERSONAL USE KING CRAB FISHERY (c)(1) is superseded by this emergency order to read:

5 AAC 77.664. PERSONAL USE KING CRAB FISHERY.

(c) In the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, in the personal use taking of king crab,

- (1) the taking of red and blue king crab is closed from 6:00 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2007 through the end of the 2007/2008 season and there is no closed season for golden king crab;

Denby Lloyd,
Commissioner

By Delegation to: _____

Al Tingley
Section 11-A RKC PU Manager

JUSTIFICATION

The results of the annual red crab stock assessment survey for the Juneau area, completed on June 12, 2007, indicate the following:

- The estimated biomass has been in steep decline since 1999.
- The estimated biomass is at its lowest point since 1991.
- CPUE data for all size/sex categories from the Juneau area survey are at or near the all time low.
- CPUE data from the Juneau area survey show significant declines over the past 4 years for mature female, pre-recruit male, and post-recruit male RKC.
- Stock health is designated as "Poor", which corresponds to a 0% harvest rate.

These conditions warrant the closure of the fishery at this time.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list of this emergency order is the same as that described in 1-G-01-07. Copies of this emergency order are available from the Department of Fish and Game offices in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Juneau, Haines, and Yakutat.