Petersburg . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the commercial golden king crab fishery in the Icy Strait management area will close at 12:00 noon, **Thursday, March 7, 2019**. Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest is expected to reach the 7,500-pound guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Icy Strait Area by the closure date. Permit holders are reminded that call-in requirements remain in effect for all current registrants. Permit holders are also requested to notify the department when they change areas or cease fishing.

The department will continue to monitor fishery performance via harvest ticket/logbook and port sampling data for the remaining open areas: East Central, Mid-Chatham Strait, Lower Chatham Strait, and Southern. Additional management actions may be taken as necessary and the department will provide as much advance notice as possible for future area closures.

A vessel may leave gear in a stored condition for five days following the closure of a portion of Registration Area A [5 AAC 34.127(2)]. All gear must be removed from the Icy Strait Area no later than 12:00 noon, March, 12, 2019.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1019.