SOUTHEAST ALASKA RED AND BLUE KING CRAB PERSONAL USE FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg…The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced the following information regarding the opening of the 2019/20 Southeast Alaska personal use red and blue king crab fishery outside of Section 11-A:

- **Peril Strait, Lynn Sisters, and Gambier Bay** will remain closed to red and blue king crab personal use fishing.
- **Beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2019,** Alaska residents fishing for red and blue king crab must have an Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2019/20 Southeast Alaska Regional Personal Use King Crab Permit (Excluding Section 11-A red and blue king crab) [5 AAC 77.664(a)].
- **Beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2019,** all areas open to personal use king crab fishing will have a reduced daily bag and possession limit of one red or blue king crab as prescribed in regulation [5 AAC 77.664(b)].

The permit is free and available through the department’s online store at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/). Personal use fishermen must sign their permit in ink to make it valid and have the permit along with a current sport fishing license in their possession while taking part in personal use king crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Regional personal use king crab permits are valid for red and blue king crab in all open areas except Section 11-A which is managed under a separate permit. Permits must be filled out each time king crab pots or ring nets are retrieved (or dive gear is used) whether king crab are harvested or not. Permit holders are required to report their harvest either online any time at: [https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/) or by turning in the completed permit at the end of the season.

**Survey and Fishery Information:**

Red and blue king crab may be taken from July 1 through March 31 [5 AAC 77.664(c)(1)]. Since the 2019 Southeast Alaska red king crab stock assessment survey is not complete, the department used 2018 red and blue king crab stock assessment survey results to set bag and possession limits and determine open areas for the red and blue king crab personal use fishery outside of Section 11-A. Red and blue king crab stock assessment survey results indicate the following:

- Regionwide the harvestable biomass of mature red and blue king crab is below 200,000 lbs.
- Red and blue king crab stock health in Peril Strait remains poor.
- Red and blue king crab stock health in Gambier Bay declined from moderate to poor.
- Red and blue king crab stocks in Lynn Sisters are moderate, but a low percentage of the mature biomass is legal sized crab.
- All other survey areas and non-survey areas appear to have stocks that can withstand some level of harvest.

**Juneau Area: Section 11-A:**

Status of the red and blue king crab personal use fishery within Section 11-A will be addressed in a separate news release once the survey is complete in late July. For more information on the red and blue king crab personal use fishery within Section 11-A please contact Adam Messmer at (907) 465-4853 or April Rebert at (907) 465-4274.

**Closed Area Descriptions:**

- Peril Strait: Section 13-C, Peril Strait (all waters of Peril Strait including Hoonah Sound, Ushk Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay, and contiguous waters west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher, and north of a line from Pogibshi Point due west to the Chichagof shoreline).
- Lynn Sisters: Waters north of a line from a point at 58°27.00’ N. latitude, 135°06.50’ W. longitude, due east to a point at 58°27.00’ N. latitude, 135°03.00’ W. longitude, and west of a line from a point at 58°27.00’ N. latitude, 135°03.00’ W. longitude, to Point Whidbey including St. James Bay.
- Gambier Bay: Waters north and west of a line between Point Gambier and 57°24.90’ N. latitude, 133°53.00’ W. longitude.

Refer to Figure 1 showing open and closed waters for personal use red and blue king crab fishing.

**Other Information:**


Analysis of 2019 Southeast Alaska red king crab stock assessment survey results will be completed by mid-September. Any changes to the 2019/20 Southeast Alaska personal use red and blue king crab fishery outside of Section 11-A will be announced at that time.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1719.
Figure 1. This map shows closed areas for the 2019/20 red and blue king crab personal use fishery and is for reference purposes only. Please refer to text in this news release for legal descriptions of management area boundaries and other details.