SOUTHEAST ALASKA GOLDEN KING CRAB PERSONAL USE FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg…The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced that the 2019/20 Southeast Alaska personal use golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A (Southeast Alaska) will open at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2019. The Northern Area [5 AAC 34.107(a)] will remain closed to golden king crab personal use fishing. Alaska residents fishing for golden king crab must have an Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2019/20 Southeast Alaska Regional Personal Use King Crab Permit [5 AAC 77.664(a)].

The permit is free and available through the department’s online store at: 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 golden king crab in all open areas. 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/ or by turning in the completed permit at the end of the season.

Survey and Fishery Information:

Golden king crab may be taken from July 1 through June 15 [5 AAC 77.664(c)(2)]. The bag and possession limit for all species of king crab in combination (including golden king crab) is three crab per person, however the bag and possession limit for red and blue king crab has been reduced to one red or blue king crab. Because the red and blue king crab bag and possession limit has been reduced the bag limit for golden king crab is three crab, or two crab if the fishermen also possesses one red or blue king crab. The department used golden king crab commercial fisheries data from 2018 to set bag and possession limits and determine open areas for the golden king crab personal use fishery in Southeast Alaska. Golden king crab stocks in the Northern Area [5 AAC 34.107(a)] cannot withstand the level of personal use harvest prescribed in regulation (Figure 1).

Closed Area Description

- Northern Area [5 AAC 34.107(a)]: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57°21.83’ N. latitude, 135°41.42’ W. longitude, and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.
**Other Information:**


Analysis of 2019 golden king crab commercial fisheries data will be completed by mid-December. Any changes to the 2019/20 Southeast Alaska personal use golden king crab fishery will be announced at that time.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1719.

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Figure 1. This map shows closed areas for the 2019/20 golden 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.