



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: February 19, 2021*

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**2020/2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY  
NORTH STEPHENS PASSAGE AREA CLOSURE**

The commercial golden king crab fishery in the North Stephens Passage Area will close at **5:00 p.m., Friday, February 19, 2021**. Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest as of the closure date is expected to reach the 15,000-pound guideline harvest level for the North Stephens Passage Area. 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 management areas: Icy Strait, Northern, Mid-Chatham, East Central, Lower Chatham, 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)]. For vessels registered for golden king crab only, all gear must be removed from the North Stephens Passage Area no later than 5:00 p.m., February 24, 2021. For vessels registered for both Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries, all gear must be removed from core Tanner crab areas no later than 12:00 noon, February 28, 2021.

Under Alaska's Health Advisory 4 commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C0821.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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