

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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**ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY OPENS AUGUST 15
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ANNOUNCED**

The 2012/13 Aleutian Islands (Area O) commercial golden king crab fishery will open at noon on August 15, 2012 and close at 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2013 for Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ) and Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. The Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery is managed east and west of 174° W longitude with separate total allowable catch (TAC) level for each area.

The TAC east of 174° W longitude is 3.31 million pounds and is apportioned to IFQ 2,979,000 pounds, and CDQ 331,000 pounds.

The TAC west of 174° W longitude is 2.98 million pounds and is apportioned to IFQ 2,682,000 pounds, and ACA 298,000 pounds.

Proof of a valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Safety Decal and an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are required by regulation before a vessel registration may be issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The operator of a vessel participating in an IFQ, CDQ or ACA crab fishery must notify the USCG at least 24-hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted at the following numbers: Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, (907) 581-3466, and Kodiak, (907) 486-5918.

Vessel registration will begin at noon in Dutch Harbor on Sunday, August 12, 2012. An individual holding a 2012 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Aleutian Islands king crab interim use permit card (K91O or K09O) must be aboard the vessel when it is registered and during all fishing operations.

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Fishermen may concurrently harvest IFQ and CDQ in the eastern Aleutian Islands (east of 174° W longitude) or IFQ and ACA in the western Aleutian Islands (west of 174° W longitude), but may not concurrently be registered for both the eastern and western fisheries. A separate CFEC permit card and registration is required for IFQ, CDQ, and ACA fisheries. At the time of vessel registration, all pots onboard the vessel or in wet storage must be in compliance with current Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishing regulations.

Catcher-only vessels are required to carry an observer for 50 percent by weight of harvested golden king crab on each vessel during each of three trimesters (August 15 to November 15, November 16 to February 15, and February 16 to May 15). Catcher-processor vessels are required to carry an observer for 100 percent of all fishing activity. Observer coverage on all vessels in this fishery is pay-as-you-go.

A vessel operator shall notify ADF&G within 72-hours of completing fishing operations in a registration area or when departing the registration area and gear is moved to long-term storage. The Alaska Board of Fisheries established a 14-day period when unbaited gear may be stored outside of designated storage areas after fishing is completed. Pots must be removed from the water or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than a 14-day period. Registration will be invalidated after 14-days of inactivity in a registration area.

For questions regarding quota share and IFQ, contact NMFS RAM Division at 1-800-304-4846 (option #2). For questions regarding the Crab Rationalization Program, contact NMFS Sustainable Fisheries at (907) 586-7228. For questions regarding federal enforcement, contact NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in Kodiak at (907) 486-3298 or Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-2061.

For further details contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239 or in Kodiak, at (907) 486-1840.

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