

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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SAINT MATTHEW ISLAND SECTION BLUE KING CRAB SEASON CLOSED

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2013 NMFS trawl survey results for the Saint Matthew Island Section. Saint Matthew Island abundance estimates for 2013 are based on area-swept survey data. The Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab fishery is closed for the 2013/14 season.

The 2013 area-swept estimate of mature male biomass is 4.5 million pounds, the lowest estimate since 2005. Recent area-swept estimates show a steep decline in Saint Matthew blue king crab abundance, similar to the late 1990s when the stock was declared overfished and a 10-year fishery closure followed. There is a high degree of uncertainty in the current stock condition; therefore, the Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab fishery is closed for the 2013/14 season.

For further information contact the ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239 or in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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