

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Contact:  
Heather Fitch, BSAI Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 581-1239  
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Office  
P.O. Box 920587  
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

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**BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB  
SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 15  
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ANNOUNCED**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of NMFS trawl survey data for Bristol Bay red king crab. The 2013/14 total allowable catch (TAC) is based on abundance and biomass estimates from the ADF&G length-based analysis model. The 2013/14 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will open on October 15, 2013 at 12:00 (noon) and will remain open through January 15, 2014. The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will not open in waters enclosed by 167° W longitude to 168° W longitude and 57°30' N latitude to 58°30' N latitude (ADF&G statistical areas 675730 and 675800) to protect Pribilof blue king crab.

Due to shutdown of the federal government, NMFS has announced that issuance of individual fishing and processing quotas (IFQ and IPQ) may be delayed. Community development quota (CDQ) permits are issued by ADF&G and will therefore not be delayed.

The Bristol Bay red king crab mature female abundance is over the threshold of 8.4 million crab and the effective spawning biomass (ESB) is over the threshold of 14.5 million pounds. The 2013 Bristol Bay red king crab ESB is estimated to be 49.3 million pounds. The ESB estimate is less than 55.0 million pounds but greater than 34.75 million pounds; therefore a 12.5 percent exploitation rate is applied to the estimated mature male abundance of 10.3 million crab. The TAC for the 2013/14 season is 8.600 million pounds and is allocated as follows:

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	7,740,000 pounds
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	860,000 pounds
Total	8,600,000 pounds

East of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of red king crab onboard a registered Bristol Bay red king crab vessel.

A valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Decal is required before a vessel registration may be issued. Vessels must also have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by NMFS. The operator of a vessel participating in IFQ or CDQ crab fisheries must notify the USCG at least 24 hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted at: (907) 581-3466 ext. 2205 or (907) 359-1575 (after hours).

At the time of registration, all pots onboard the vessel and in wet storage must be in compliance with current Bristol Bay commercial red king crab fishing regulations. There is no pot limit or buoy tag requirement for the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery. Vessel operators may register up to 10 groundfish pots. Vessel operators may register gear operation cooperatives with other registered vessels. A vessel operator may transport crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another vessel operator, however, the registered vessel operator of the crab pot gear has seven days to be active in the registration area where the gear is deployed. A vessel operator may make a one-time transfer of all pot gear to another vessel operator at the completion of fishing operations.

Preseason gear inspections will be available beginning Thursday, October 10, 2013 in Dutch Harbor and Akutan and beginning Friday, October 11, 2013 in King Cove. Vessel registration will begin on the morning of October 14, 2013. An individual holding a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bristol Bay red king crab interim use permit card (K91T or K09T) must be present during registration. Vessel operators may participate concurrently in IFQ and CDQ fisheries, but a separate registration and CFEC permit card are required for each fishery.

Vessel operators must notify ADF&G within 72 hours of completing fishing operations in a registration area or when departing the registration area with gear in long-term storage or transferred to another vessel. Unbaited gear may be stored outside of designated storage areas after fishing is completed for up to 14 days. Pots must be removed from the water or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than 14 days. A vessel operator's registration will be invalidated after 14 days of inactivity in a registration area.

When NOAA Fisheries RAM Division operations resume, IFQ/IPQ inquiries should be directed to NOAA Fisheries RAM Division at 1-800-304-4846 (option #2). NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in Kodiak is operational during the federal government shutdown and may be contacted regarding federal Crab Rationalization Program regulations at (907) 486-3298.

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

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