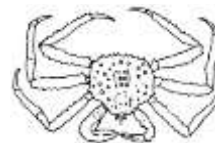

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Joe Stratman

Phone: (907) 772-5238

Fax: (907) 772-9336

Petersburg Area Office

P.O. Box 667

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

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Time: 8:30 a.m.

2013/2014 TANNER AND GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERIES ANNOUNCEMENT WEATHER DELAY FOR START DATE

Petersburg . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that there will be a 24 hour delay of the start date for the 2013/2014 commercial Tanner and golden king crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) meteorologists have forecasted winds 35 knots and higher and freezing spray for most of the region over the next 48 hours. The new start for both fisheries will be at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 11, 2014**. According to weather delay criteria for both fisheries in regulation [5 AAC 34.110(f), 5 AAC 35.110(b)], if after the initial delay gale warnings continue regionwide, the season opening for both fisheries may be delayed an additional 24 hours, and may continue on a rolling 24 hour basis.

The season length of the Tanner fishery will be determined by guidelines set forth in the Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy [5 AAC 35.113]. As outlined in the harvest strategy, the initial period of the commercial Tanner crab fishing season in the core areas and non-core areas will be at least five days in length, and may be increased with additional fishing days allowed based on the number of registered pots at the start of the fishery [5 AAC 35.113(b)(1)]. Barring any further weather delays, a news release will be issued on February 11, 2014 announcing the total number of pots registered in the fishery for the 2013/2014 season and whether extra fishing time will result during the initial period. At the end of the initial period, the core areas will close to fishing, and the non-core areas will remain open for an additional five days. For the golden king crab fishery, inseason reporting of crab logbook data is required daily. The first required call-in for the 2013/2014 golden king crab fishery will now be Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

The department will continue to monitor weather forecasts in the event that further delays are required.

Emergency Orders corresponding with this announcement are EO 1C0314 and EO 1C0414.

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

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