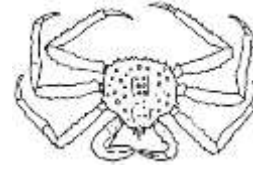

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Juneau Area Office
1008 F Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Date: July 8, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.

JUNEAU AREA PERSONAL USE RED AND BLUE KING CRAB FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Juneau. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the personal use red and blue king crab fishing season in Section 11-A (Juneau area) will **not open in 2014**.

The department surveys the red king crab population in Section 11-A in late June and generates estimates of abundance of sexually mature crab, and legal-sized crab. The 2014 legal-sized crab estimate of abundance is essentially the same biomass as 2013, but the mature estimate shows a 16% increase in abundance. Overall, stock status for the Juneau area has improved from poor in 2013 to below average in 2014. A male red king crab becomes sexually mature at about 8 years of age and recruits into the legal population at 9-10 years of age.

With the combination of a flat level of legal biomass, low levels of most size/sex classes over the past 8 years, and that any manageable harvest level would likely produce population declines, the personal use red and blue king crab fishery in Section 11-A will not be open for the 2014-2015 season.

As previously announced on June 13, 2014, the waters of Sections 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C not listed as closed below are currently open to personal use fishing for red and blue king crab with a daily bag and possession limit of one red or blue king crab [5 AAC 77.664(b)]. Those waters outside of Sections 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C not listed as closed below, are also currently open to personal use fishing for red and blue king crab with a daily bag and possession limit of one red or blue king crab [5 AAC 77.664(a)(1)].

As previously announced, the following areas will remain closed to fishing for red and blue king crab until further notice due to poor stock health:

Port Frederick, Peril Strait, Seymour Canal, Gambier Bay, Pybus Bay, Holkham Bay, Lynn Sisters/St. James Bay, and Excursion Inlet will remain closed.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1C1814.

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

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