

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



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**ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB
SEASON OPENING AUGUST 1
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ANNOUNCED**

The 2015/16 Aleutian Islands golden king crab Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ), and Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries will open on August 1, 2015 at 12:00 noon and close on April 30, 2016 at 11:59 pm. Aleutian Islands golden king crab are managed east and west of 174° W longitude with a separate total allowable catch (TAC) for each area, allocated as follows:

East of 174° W longitude:

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	2,979,000
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	331,000
Total	3,310,000

West of 174° W longitude:

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	2,682,000
Adak Community Allocation (ACA)	298,000
Total	2,980,000

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 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Fishermen must notify the USCG at least 24 hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted in Dutch Harbor at: (907) 581-3466 or (907) 359-1575 (after hours).

Vessel registration will begin at noon in Dutch Harbor on July 29, 2015. An individual holding a 2015 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Aleutian Islands king crab interim use permit card (K91O or K09O) must be aboard the vessel at the time of registration and during all fishing operations. Fishermen may concurrently harvest IFQ and CDQ golden king crab in the

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eastern Aleutian Islands (east of 174° W longitude) or IFQ and ACA golden king crab in the western Aleutian Islands (west of 174° W longitude), but may not be concurrently registered in both the eastern and western Aleutian Islands golden king crab 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. Fishermen may register gear operation cooperatives with other registered vessels. Fishermen may transport crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another fisherman; however, the registered fisherman of the crab pot gear has seven days to be active in the registration area where the gear is deployed. Fishermen may make a one-time transfer of all pot gear to another fisherman at the completion of fishing operations.

Catcher-only vessels are required to carry an observer for 50% (by weight) of their harvested golden king crab during each of three trimesters (August 1 to October 31, November 1 to January 31, and February 1 to April 30). Observer coverage is funded using Aleutian Islands golden king crab test fish funds. Please contact Saltwater Inc. at (907) 539-2548 to arrange for observer coverage.

Fishermen must notify the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) within 72 hours of completing fishing operations in a registration area. 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, transferred to another vessel, or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than 14 days. A vessel's registration will be invalidated after 14 days of inactivity.

NMFS is seeking volunteers interested in testing electronic logbooks and willing to provide feedback for program improvements. Participants would not need to complete a paper daily fishing log (DFL). Minimum requirements on the vessel include: a computer/laptop with Windows 7, a printer, and a USB drive; internet access while at sea is not needed, data is transmitted at the conclusion of each trip. If interested, please contact Suja Hall with NMFS at: (907) 586-7462 or suja.hall@noaa.gov.

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

For further details contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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