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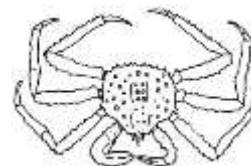
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **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 2016**.

The department surveys the red king crab population in Section 11-A in late June and generates estimates of biomass and abundance for sexually mature and legal-sized crab. The 2016 legal-sized and sexually mature crab biomass estimates of abundance increased by approximately 14% and 19% respectively from the 2015 survey, however, both remain below their long-term averages. 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, and can live for more than 20 years. Although the mature and legal-sized crab populations in Section 11-A have experienced several consecutive years of increase, overall the stock health for the Juneau area continues to be below the long-term average.

Low recruitment over the last decade has resulted in slow to no recovery after each fishery, even when harvests were at or near all-time lows. Mature and legal crab biomass estimates are still below their long-term averages and executing a fishery may impact further recovery. A further year of closure should allow the sexually mature and legal-sized crab biomass levels to continue to increase, providing a more robust population base capable of sustaining meaningful harvest opportunities in future seasons.

As previously announced on June 17, 2016, 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:

Peril Strait, Seymour Canal, Gambier Bay, Pybus Bay, Lynn Sisters/St. James Bay, and Excursion Inlet.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1C1316.

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

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