
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:		Petersburg Area Office
Kellii Wood		P.O. Box 667
Joe Stratman		Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Phone: (907) 772-5222	(907) 772-5238	Date: August 11, 2016
Fax: (907) 772-9336	(907) 772-9336	Time: 1:00 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB SUMMER SEASON CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the summer season for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A (Southeast) will close by regulation **at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, August 15, 2016**, consistent with 5 AAC 32.110. Reporting of lost pots, or pots left in a closed area in fishing condition, should be directed to Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) offices in Juneau or Ketchikan.

All Dungeness crab must be landed within 24 hours of a closure [5 AAC 32.031(d)]. Vessel operators unable to meet this deadline must contact department shellfish staff **within the 24 hours following the closure** to request authorization to possess Dungeness crab for an extended period. To request extended holding, contact Kellii Wood at (907) 518-1296 or (907) 772-5222.

A person may store Dungeness crab pots in waters closed to fishing for Dungeness crab for no more than seven days after the closure to fishing for Dungeness crab in Registration Area A, if all pot doors are secured fully open and all bait and bait containers are removed [5 AAC 32.052(b)(1)(A)]. Gear storage extensions due to extreme weather or a major vessel breakdown may be obtained by contacting department shellfish staff [5 AAC 32.052(c)] **before** 11:59 p.m., Monday, August 22, 2016. To request a gear storage extension, contact Joe Stratman at (907) 518-0755.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) met in January 2015 to discuss proposals for Southeast and Yakutat shellfish fisheries. At this meeting, the BOF adopted a proposal to change the start time for the summer and fall seasons of the Southeast Alaska commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 12:00 noon to 8:00 a.m. The Southeast Alaska commercial Dungeness crab fishery will reopen for the fall/winter season at **8:00 a.m.** on Saturday, October 1, 2016 [5 AAC 32.110]. The department will issue a news release on the fall/winter commercial Dungeness crab season prior to the opening.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
