
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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P.O. Box 667
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SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL RED KING CRAB FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the 2011/2012 Southeast Alaska commercial red and blue king crab season will open at 12:00 noon on November 1, 2011. The overall guideline harvest level (GHL) will be 201,000 pounds with a pot limit of 20 pots per vessel.

Fishing Areas

The commercial fishery will open at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 1, 2011. To achieve the GHL, the fishery will be managed by targeting four separate area-specific harvest objectives. The four areas are: 1.) Section 11-A (Juneau) Area, 2.) Excursion Inlet/St. James Area, 3.) Pybus/Gambier/Round Rock Area, and 4) the Non-Surveyed Area. Survey areas are those where the department has conducted stock assessment surveys to evaluate stock condition and determine harvestable surplus. The area-specific harvest objectives are intended to limit harvest levels in surveyed areas to that which has been identified as surplus, while also allowing an opportunity to harvest in other areas (non-surveyed area) that may be underutilized. Closures will be announced when it is projected that each area-specific harvest objective has been achieved, however closures of discreet statistical areas within the non-surveyed areas are possible. Additionally, harvest in non-surveyed areas will be analyzed further to determine whether an early closure of the area is warranted.

Fishing Area Descriptions and Harvest Objectives

Definitions of areas and harvest objectives are as follows:

- 1) Section 11-A (Juneau) Area will have a harvest objective of 9,000 lbs. This area is defined as all waters of Section 11-A – all waters of District 11 north and west of a line running from a point at 58° 12.33' N. lat., 134° 10.00' W. long., to the Coast Guard marker and light on Point Arden, and waters that are south of the latitude of Little Island Light and east of a line running from Little Island Light to Point Retreat Light, with the exception of those waters listed in 5 AAC 34.150 (see Closed Areas below). The Section 11-A Area will be **open for 24 hours only** (see Inseason Management and Reporting Requirements below).
- 2) Excursion Inlet/St. James Area will have a harvest objective of 29,000 lbs. This area is defined as waters of Excursion Inlet north of a line running from a point at 58° 22.49' N. lat., 135° 28.62' W. long., to a point at 58° 21.79' N. lat., 135° 24.98' W. long., and the waters of Lynn Canal (Section 15-C) north of the latitude of Little Island Light, south of the latitude of Sherman Rock Light, and west of a line from Point St. Mary to Point Bridget.
- 3) Pybus/Gambier/Round Rock Area will have a harvest objective of 66,000 lbs. This area is defined as all waters of statistical areas 110-21, 110-22, 110-23, and 110-24 and includes

waters of Pybus Bay, Gambier Bay, the Big Bend, Frederick Sound, and Stephens Passage north of a line from a point on the Admiralty Island shore at 57° 14.63' N. lat., 134° 07.02' W. long. to a point on Elliot Island at 57° 15.09' N. lat., 134° 03.76' W. long., east of a line from a point on Elliot Island at 57° 15.09' N. lat., 134° 03.76' W. long. to a point in Frederick Sound at 57° 08.99' N. lat., 134° 03.44' W. long., north of a line from a point in Frederick Sound at 57° 08.99' N. lat., 134° 03.44' W. long. to a point in Frederick Sound at 57° 12.61' N. lat., 133° 52.86' W. long., north and west of a line from a point in Frederick Sound at 57° 12.61' N. lat., 133° 52.86' W. long. to a point on an unnamed island east of East Brother Island at 57° 17.52' N. lat., 133° 47.58' W. long., west of a line from a point on an unnamed island east of East Brother Island at 57° 17.76' N. lat., 133° 47.48' W. long. to a point in Stephens Passage at 57° 35.46' N. lat., 133° 45.63' W. long., south of a line from a point in Stephens Passage at 57° 35.46' N. lat., 133° 45.63' W. long. to Point Hugh at 57° 34.28' N. lat., 133° 48.62' W. long., and south of a line in Seymour Canal at 57° 37.00' N lat.;

- 4) Non-Surveyed Area will have a harvest objective of 97,000 lbs. This area is defined as all waters of Registration Area A not listed in one of the previous three fishing areas, or listed as closed (see Closed Areas below).

Closed Areas

The commercial fishery will be closed in the following areas:

- 1) Within Section 11-A (Juneau) Area [5 AAC 34.150]:
 - a) the waters north of a line from Marmion Island Light to the easternmost tip of Point Salisbury at 58° 12.50' N. lat., 134° 13.75' W. long., and enclosed by a line from Outer Point on Douglas Island at 58° 18.20' N. lat., 134° 41.30' W. long., across Stephens Passage to the mouth of Bear Creek on Admiralty Island at 58° 16.80' N. lat., 134° 46.50' W. long., along the shoreline of Admiralty Island in a northerly direction to Symonds Point at 58° 20.60' N. lat., 134° 50.20' W. long., across Saginaw Channel to the southeasternmost tip of Shelter Island at 58° 22.30' N. lat., 134° 48.60' W. long., along the shoreline of Shelter Island to the southernmost tip of Halibut Cove at 58° 27.70' N. lat., 134° 53.30' W. long., across Favorite Channel to the southernmost entrance of Amalga Harbor at 58° 29.30' N. lat., 134° 47.30' W. long.; and
 - b) the waters of Barlow Cove south of the latitude of Barlow Point at 58° 22.80' N. lat., 134° 53.70' W. long.;
- 2) Seymour Canal - all waters of Seymour Canal north of 57° 37.00' N lat. (Section 11-D);
- 3) Port Frederick – all waters of Port Frederick south and west of a line between the light at Cannery Point to the northernmost tip of Halibut Island and from there to a point at 58° 09.60' N. lat., 135° 30.00' W. long.
- 4) Peril Strait – all waters of Peril Strait including Hoonah Sound, Ushk Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay and contiguous waters west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher and north of a line from Pogibshi Point due west to the Chichagof shoreline (Section 13-C).

Although waters of Glacier Bay proper and upper Dundas Bay are not closed areas in state regulations, and are not closed due to stock health concerns, these areas were closed by federal law to commercial harvest of king crab. For more information on commercial fishing restrictions in Glacier Bay National Park, fishermen can contact the National Park Service at (907) 697-2230. Permit holders are also reminded to review boundaries of state waters closed to commercial harvest in 5 AAC 34.150 on page 101 of the 2011-2012 Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fishing Regulations booklet available at area offices.

Inseason Management and Reporting Requirements

The amount of harvestable surplus in Section 11-A does not allow for inseason management to be used to target the 9000 lb harvest objective. **Section 11-A will open at 12:00 noon Tuesday, November 1, 2011, and will close at 12:00 noon Wednesday November 2, 2011.** The other three fishery areas will be managed for their individual harvest objectives using inseason management. Logbooks and inseason reporting are mandatory in the red king crab fishery [5 AAC 34.130 & 5 AAC 34.143]. **For all areas, inseason reporting will be required daily for the entire season. The first mandatory call-in for the**

2011/12 season is Wednesday, November 2, 2011. Alaska Wildlife Troopers will be consulted should call-in requirements not be followed. A dedicated phone line, (907) 465-2000 has been established for the reporting of crab logbook data. Multiple calls can be handled simultaneously and message storage is nearly unlimited. Fishermen are also requested to phone in when they change fishing areas or when discontinuing fishing for the season. For permit holders who wish to e-mail their logbook data please contact Joe Stratman in Petersburg at (772-5238 - office, 518-0755 - cell) or Adam Messmer in Douglas (465-4853 - office, 321-4615 - cell) to make arrangements.

Closure information will be announced via news release and in conjunction with U.S. Coast Guard broadcasts on the VHF marine radio, Channel 16. Additionally, closure announcements and updates will be recorded on the department's call-in line, (907) 465-2000. **Fishermen should plan to listen for radio announcements, or monitor the department's call-in line, and expect notice as short as 12-hours prior to closures.**

Logbooks should be sealed in one of the envelopes provided in registration packets and attached to the fish ticket submitted to the processor upon delivery. The number of crabs, pounds, and number of pot lifts by statistical area must be recorded on fish tickets and logbooks. **Each king crab fisherman shall indicate on the fish ticket at the time of landing any king crab harvested which are not purchased by the processor, or which have been discarded at sea [5 AAC 34.075(a)]. Each buyer of king crab shall indicate on the fish ticket any king crab which was not purchased from a load [5 AAC 34.075(b)].**

The department is requesting anyone fishing in the Holkham Bay area to provide additional voluntary logbook information, specifically latitude/longitude and catch data that will aid the department in making continued improvements in the red king crab stock assessment program within the Holkham Bay survey area. Unique logbook forms for this area will be included in the registration packets.

Additionally, the department has been tagging red king crab in the surveyed areas of Pybus Bay, Gambier Bay, Lynn Sisters and Excursion Inlet. The department is requesting anyone who captures a tagged crab to indicate the capture location and tag number on a specified logbook page included with the registration packets.

For those interested in the plans for continuing the mark recapture study:

- Initial tagging surveys are scheduled for mid-October in Seymour Canal and Peril Strait survey areas.
- Initial tagging surveys for Holkham Bay and Port Frederick survey areas and all recapture surveys have yet to be scheduled; more information will be available following the closure of all areas to the commercial fishery.
- Contact Chris Siddon, ADF&G shellfish biometrician and lead contact for this study, if willing to participate in either initial tagging surveys or recapture surveys: work: (907) 465-4226, cell: (907) 209-1883, email: chris.siddon@alaska.gov

Registration

The registration deadline for the 2011/12 commercial red king crab fishery is Monday, October 3, 2011. All commercial fishermen registering in the 2011/12 commercial red king crab fishery after October 3, 2011 will be required to pay a \$45 late fee [A.S. 16.05.065]. Processors are reminded that registration for tenders is required.

Commercial fishermen may register at Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Haines area offices. Logbooks are mandatory for all pot fishing vessels participating in the commercial red king crab fishery. Logbook packets, buoy tags, and other related materials will be available in area offices by Wednesday, September 21. Logbook packets include instructions for filling out the logbooks, logbook

sheets, envelopes for their delivery, maps showing ADF&G statistical areas, the Southeastern Alaska king and Tanner crab regulations handout, and all news releases available at the time the packet is obtained.

The regulation on buoy tag placement is addressed in 5 AAC 34.051(b). Buoy tags are mandatory for all commercial red king crab gear and are available in any area office in Southeast Alaska for \$1.25 each. Replacement tags are available at all area offices upon receipt of a completed tag replacement affidavit. All missing tag numbers must be provided on the affidavit form before replacements can be issued. The completed affidavit form must be signed by the permit holder and a crewmember. **The department has gone back to a one-year tag for the red king crab fishery.**

Retention of Parasitized Red King Crab

Red king crabs that are infected with the barnacle parasite, *Briarosaccus callosus*, may be retained regardless of size or sex [5 AAC 34.112]. Either a scar or the externa of the parasite located under the abdominal flap indicates the presence of this parasite. The scar is a dark brown or black spot about ¼ inches in diameter on the soft tissue of the abdominal flap. The externa varies in size, is shaped like a hot dog and is usually attached to the soft tissue of the abdominal flap. It is possible to have more than one scar or externa on the same crab. The parasite's externa must be removed before the crab is placed into the vessel holding tank.

Retention of Blue King Crab

Permit holders with current registration in the red king crab fishery will be allowed to retain blue king crab in the 2011/12 red king crab fishery [5 AAC 34.110 (e)] from areas described as blue king crab fishing areas [5 AAC 34.108]. The waters of District 14 in Glacier Bay north of the latitude of Point Gustavus are described as a blue king crab fishing area [5 AAC 34.108(c)] but commercial king crab fishing in Glacier Bay is currently prohibited by federal regulation (see Closed Areas above). For more information on the commercial blue king crab fishing prohibition in Glacier Bay contact the National Park Service at (907) 697-2230.

Lost Pots

Reporting of lost pots, or pots left in a closed area in fishing condition should be directed to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) offices in Juneau or Ketchikan (contact numbers are listed below). For information on replacement buoy tags please review the information provided above under registration.

Other requirements and information

A person or vessel that operates pots or ring nets for commercial, subsistence, personal use or sport purposes during the 30 days immediately before the scheduled opening date of the commercial fishery may not participate in that king crab fishery [5 AAC 34.128(a)]. This prohibition does not apply to the operation of commercial shrimp or Dungeness crab pots [5 AAC 34.128 (b)]. Fishermen are reminded to review gear storage requirements and other pertinent regulations in the 2011-2012 Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fishing Regulations booklet available at area offices.

Fishermen are reminded to report any groundfish taken for bait prior to or during the red king crab fishery. This groundfish can be accounted for by indicating it (as disposition code 92) as landed catch on the crab fish ticket for which the bait was taken. For more information on harvesting groundfish under commercial regulations for bait in the red king crab fishery contact Joe Stratman in Petersburg at (772-5238 - office, 518-0755 - cell) or Adam Messmer in Douglas (465-4853 - office, 321-4615 - cell).

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	

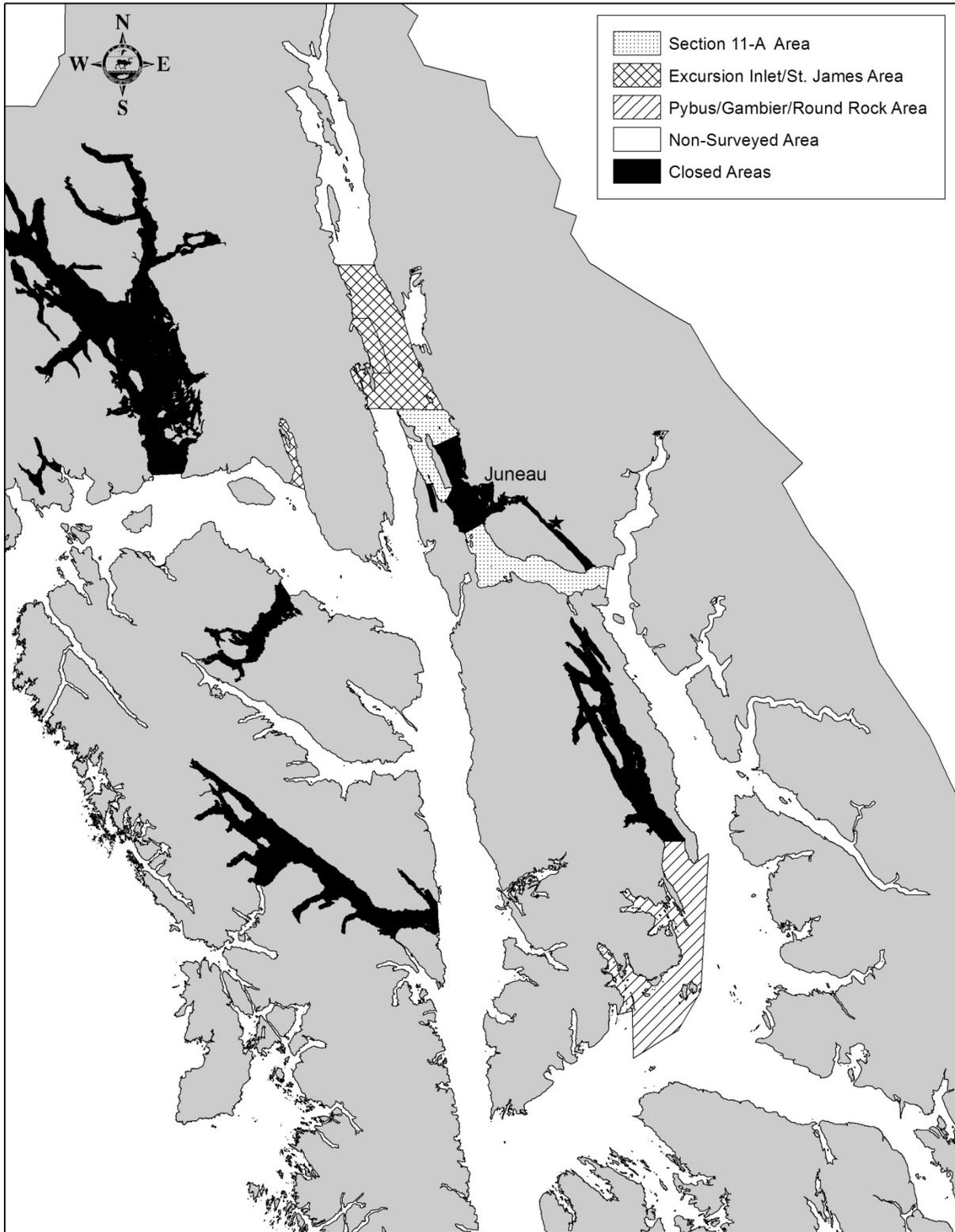


Figure 1: Chart of red king crab management areas in Southeast Alaska for the 2011/12 season. Management area boundaries are for general information purposes only and are not intended as legal descriptions.