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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Time: 1:30 p.m.

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#### COMMERCIAL RED KING CRAB ANNOUNCEMENT NON-SURVEYED SOUTHERN AREA CLOSURE DATE

Petersburg . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the commercial red king crab fishery in the Non-Surveyed Southern Area will close at 12:00 noon, **Friday, December 15, 2017**. The Non-Surveyed Southern Area is defined as all waters of Districts 1-5, and in District 6 south of a line between a point on Zarembo Island at 56°25.47' N. lat., 133°0.66' W. long., to Mitchell Point in District 7 south of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56°12.21' N. lat., 131°55.26' W. long. to a point on the mainland at 56°12.02' N. lat., 131°52.90' W. long., and in District 9 south and west of a line between Kingsmill Point and Point Gardner. This action will bring the 2017/2018 red king crab fishery in Registration Area A to a close.

Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest as of the closure date is not expected to reach the 35,000-pound harvest objective for the Non-Surveyed Southern Area. Though harvest in the area is confidential due to fewer than three permits making landings, effort level and catch rates could be described as very low. While splitting the non-surveyed area harvestable surplus into northern and southern areas allowed more exploratory fishing time in the southern portion of the registration area, to date fishery performance has been poor, participation has been low, and no appreciable amount of legal-sized crab has been found.

A vessel may leave gear in a stored condition for seven days after the closure of Registration Area A [5 AAC 34.127(1)]. All gear must be removed from the Non-Surveyed Southern Area no later than 12:00 noon, Friday, December 22, 2017. Permit holders are also asked to review landing requirements in 5 AAC 34.031.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is 1C3417.

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

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