

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



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**BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 15  
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ANNOUNCED**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of NMFS trawl survey data for Bristol Bay red king crab. The 2011/2012 total allowable catch (TAC) is based on abundance and biomass estimates from the ADF&G length-based analysis model.

The Bristol Bay red king crab stock is above the mature female abundance threshold of 8.4 million crab and the effective spawning biomass (ESB) is over the threshold of 14.5 million pounds. The 2011 Bristol Bay red king crab ESB is estimated to be 43.08 million pounds.

Since the ESB estimate is less than 55.0 million pounds but greater than 34.75 million pounds, a 12.5 percent exploitation rate is applied to the estimated mature male abundance of 10.125 million crab. Total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2011/2012 season is 7.834 million pounds and is apportioned as follows:

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	7,050,600 pounds
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	783,400 pounds
Total	7,834,000 pounds

The 2011/2012 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will open at 12:00 noon on October 15 and will remain open through January 15, 2012.

The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will not open in waters enclosed by 167° W longitude to 168° W longitude and 57° 30' N latitude to 58° N latitude (ADF&G statistical area 675730) to protect Pribilof blue king crab. Blue king crab were captured during the 2011 survey in this area.

A valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Decal is required before a vessel registration is issued. Vessels must also have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by NMFS. The operator of a vessel participating in IFQ or CDQ crab fisheries must notify the USCG at least 24-hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted at: (907) 581-3466 ext. 1 or (907) 359-6739.

Preseason gear inspections will be available beginning on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 in Dutch Harbor, Akutan and King Cove. Vessel registration will begin on the morning of October 14, 2011. An individual holding a 2011 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bristol Bay red king crab interim use permit card (K91T or K09T) must be present during registration. Vessel operators may participate concurrently in IFQ and CDQ fisheries, but a separate registration and CFEC permit card is required for each fishery. At the time of registration, all pots onboard the vessel or in wet storage must be in compliance with current Bristol Bay commercial red king crab fishing regulations.

There is no pot limit or buoy tag requirement for the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery. Vessel operators may register up to 10 groundfish pots. Vessel operators may register gear operation cooperatives with other registered vessels. A vessel operator may transport crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another vessel operator, however, the registered vessel operator of the crab pot gear has 7 days to be active in the registration area where the gear was deployed. A vessel operator may make a one-time transfer of all registered pot gear to another vessel operator at the completion of fishing operations.

Vessel operators must notify the department within 72-hours of completing fishing operations in a registration area or when departing the registration area with gear in long-term storage or transferred to another vessel. 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 or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than a 14-day period. Additionally, a vessel operator's registration will be invalidated after 14-days of inactivity in a registration area.

For questions regarding issuance of quota share and IFQ/IPQ, contact NOAA Fisheries RAM Division at 1-800-304-4846 (option #2). 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 information contact the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239 or in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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