

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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner

Forrest R. Bowers, Acting Director



Contact:
Miranda Westphal, BSAI Area Management Biologist
Ethan Nichols, BSAI Area Asst. Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 581-1239
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Office
P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, AK. 99692

Date Issued: 10/2/2018

Pribilof District Red and Blue King Crab Seasons Closed

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service have completed analysis of 2018 NMFS trawl survey results for Pribilof District red and blue king crabs. Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2018/19 season.

The 2018 estimates for Pribilof District blue king crab indicate continued low abundance, remaining well below the federal minimum stock size threshold. Pribilof District blue king crab must meet a minimum threshold of 13.2 million pounds of total mature biomass (TMB) in two consecutive years for the fishery to open. Both the 2017 and 2018 estimates of TMB are well below this threshold; therefore, the fishery will remain closed.

There is considerable uncertainty surrounding precision of Pribilof District red king crab abundance estimates. Given this uncertainty and high potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, the Pribilof District red king crab fishery will remain closed.

For further information contact ADF&G Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239, or ADF&G Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.