

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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner

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**Saint Matthew Island Section Blue King Crab
Season Closed**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2018 NMFS trawl and ADF&G pot survey results for Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab. The stock is estimated below the federal minimum stock size threshold and consequently has been declared overfished. In addition, the 2018 estimate of mature male abundance is below the ADF&G minimum regulatory threshold necessary for a fishery opening. Therefore, Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab will be closed for the 2018/19 season.

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 questions regarding quota shares and IFQ/IPQ, contact NOAA Fisheries RAM Division at 1-800-304-4846 (option #2).

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

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