

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



*Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
John Hilsinger, Director*



Contact:
Mary Schwenzfeier, State Shellfish Observer Program Coordinator
Forrest Bowers, BSAI Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 581-1239
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Area
P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, Alaska

Date issued: August 4, 2010

**PRESEASON VESSEL REGISTRATION FOR 2010/11 BRISTOL BAY RED KING
CRAB, BERING SEA TANNER, AND BERING SEA SNOW CRAB FISHERIES**

Preseason vessel registrations for the 2010/11 Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries will begin on August 16, 2010. The preseason vessel registration forms are available at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/shellfish/shellhom4.php>. Preseason registration will end at 5:00 p.m. on September 24, 2010. A 2010 CFEC permit card is not required to preseason register.

Vessels that are preseason registered for the Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner Crab, or Bering Sea snow crab fisheries will be listed in a random-ordered roster by fishery. Vessels will be chosen from the top of the roster for observer coverage to achieve the target level of observer coverage in each fishery. Catcher vessel observer coverage for these fisheries is contracted and paid for by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Selected catcher vessels will be required to carry a crab observer during 100% of the time that each vessel is participating in the fishery. In addition to the catcher vessels selected to carry an observer, ADF&G will maintain an alternate list of vessels for potential observer coverage in each fishery.

The contact information provided on the preseason registration form will be used for the purpose of arranging observer coverage for each catcher vessel selected by ADF&G to carry an observer. ADF&G or the state-contracted observer company will provide observers for selected catcher vessels. An observer company will be contracted prior to the end of August and their contact information will be available in the vessel selection news release on September 27, 2010.

-continued-

Every crab-processing vessel is required to carry a crab observer during 100% of the time that the vessel is participating in a crab fishery. Processing vessels participating in all BSAI crab fisheries must arrange and pay for their observer coverage.

All vessels must provide proof of compliance with United States Coast Guard (USCG) vessel safety requirements. USCG dockside examinations are available in Puget Sound, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor.

Observers will have their own rain gear, boots, gloves, survival suit, and personal flotation device (PFD) for working on deck, along with their own bedding and personal items. Some of the regulatory requirements for vessels that carry observers include:

- Provide adequate food and accommodations for the observer equal to those provided for the vessel's crew;
- Provide to the observer daily catch information including areas fished, number of crab retained, pot locations, number of pots pulled, and other information specified by the department;
- Provide a safe work area, and necessary gear including five totes for the observer to use at all times to hold the contents of crab pots for sampling;
- Assure observer access to single side band (SSB) radio, fax, telex, email, or telephone.

For further information please contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

-end-