
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Joe Stratman

Phone: (907) 772-5238
Fax: (907) 772-9336

Petersburg Area Office
P.O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Date: March 22, 2012
Time: 2:45 p.m.

CHARTER BID PACKET AVAILABLE FOR YAKUTAT DUNGENESS CRAB SURVEY

Petersburg. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today that Yakutat Dungeness crab survey charter bid packets are available in Yakutat, Douglas, Petersburg, Sitka, and Ketchikan offices. The pot survey will assess stocks of Dungeness crab in Statistical Areas 181-10, 181-40, and 181-50 of Registration Area D (Yakutat). Details of the survey, including a work summary and minimum qualifications, follow. Charter bid packets are due in the Petersburg office by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, 2012. The contract will be awarded by April 18 to the best qualified bidder after a 5 percent Alaska bidder's preference is applied.

Background

Landings in the Yakutat Dungeness crab fishery declined from a peak of 5.2 million lb in the 1982/1983 season to approximately 65,000 lb in the 1999/2000 season. The fishery was designated as collapsed at the 2000 meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and has been closed since then. A survey conducted in 2004 failed to find evidence of stock recovery.

Objectives

The primary objective of the 2012 pilot survey is to gather information on the current health of the stock. Specifically, we will collect information on the legal catch rate, male size composition, and distribution of Dungeness crabs in the Yakutat area.

Work Summary

The survey will be conducted over 10 days from May 30 – June 9, by two biologists on a chartered commercial fishing vessel. The vessel skipper will be required to have experience in the Yakutat Dungeness crab commercial fishery. The May 30 survey start is timed two weeks later than the May 15 Yakutat Dungeness commercial season start to ensure that crabs have completed molting and have hard shells. The survey will be conducted in three Yakutat statistical areas: north of Cape Fairweather (181-10), between Yakutat Bay and Icy Bay (181-50), and Icy Bay (181-40). A minimum of 200 pots in each of the three statistical areas for a minimum total of 600 pots total will be hauled. Soak times longer than 24-hours may be required. All crabs captured during the survey will be returned to the water unharmed.

Minimum Qualifications

- The vessel must meet both of the following qualifications: 1) at least 55 feet in overall length, and 2) at least 44 net tons.
- Skipper must have at least one year of experience in the Yakutat Dungeness crab commercial fishery.
- Deck must have a sheltered area for crab sampling and a sheltered marine head.
- Operational DGPS, 24-mile radar, color video sounder, and VHF are required.
- The winning bidder will be required to make the vessel and pots available for inspection between April 4, and April 18, 2012.
- The contractor will provide a minimum of 3 crew (skipper and two deckhands)
- The contractor must have a letter certifying United States Coast Guard (USCG) inspection within the prior 12 months and all USCG required safety equipment.
- The contractor will provide all bait, fuel, lubricants, filters, and food.
- The contractor will provide 120 offshore (minimum 100 lb pot weight) Dungeness crab pots with buoys and buoy line.
- The contractor will be responsible for setting and retrieving pots.
- Vessel must have bunk space for at least 2 ADF&G biologists and the vessel's own minimum required crew of 3.

Data Application

Data collected during this survey will be used to evaluate status of the Yakutat Area Dungeness crab stock and the potential for future fisheries and surveys.

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADFG</i>	<i>225-5195</i>	<i>772-3801</i>	<i>874-3822</i>	<i>747-6688</i>	<i>465-4250</i>	<i>766-2830</i>		<i>784-3255</i>
<i>AWT</i>	<i>225-5111</i>	<i>772-3983</i>	<i>874-3215</i>	<i>747-3254</i>	<i>465-4000</i>		<i>945-3620</i>	