

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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**BERING SEA SNOW CRAB FISHERY
PARTIAL EXTENSION OF EASTERN SUBDISTRICT**

EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 4-S-24-12

Waters of the Eastern Subdistrict of the Bering Sea snow crab fishery between 171° W longitude and 173° W longitude will remain open by emergency order through May 31, 2012. Waters of the Eastern Subdistrict east of 171° W longitude will close by regulation at midnight May 15, 2012. Waters of the Western Subdistrict will remain open by regulation through May 31, 2012. The 24-hour delivery requirement for snow crab taken in the portion of the Eastern Subdistrict closing on May 15 is waived.

Record sea ice coverage significantly reduced available fishing grounds throughout a large portion of the snow crab season and as a result, nearly 25 percent of the snow crab total allowable catch has not been harvested.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will provide additional updates for the snow crab fishery via news release later in May.

For further information contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239 or in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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