

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



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PRIBILOF DISTRICT RED AND BLUE KING CRAB SEASON

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2012 NMFS trawl survey results for Pribilof District red and blue king crabs. Pribilof District king crab abundance estimates for 2012 are based on area-swept survey data. The Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2012/2013 season.

Survey results for Pribilof District blue king crab indicate continued very-low abundance. 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 2011 and 2012 estimates of TMB are well below this threshold; therefore, the fishery will remain closed.

Abundance estimates for mature and legal-size male red king crabs in the Pribilof District increased from the prior year; however, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding precision of the abundance estimates. Due to high uncertainty surrounding the red king crab abundance estimate and potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, the Pribilof District red king crab fishery will remain closed for the 2012/2013 season.

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

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