

---

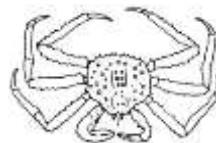
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Douglas Vincent-Lang, Commissioner*  
*Sam Rabung, Director*



---

Contact:  
Joe Stratman

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

Petersburg Area Office  
P.O. Box 667  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833  
Date: May 21, 2019  
Time: 4:15 p.m.

---

#### COMMERCIAL GOLDEN KING CRAB ANNOUNCEMENT MID-CHATHAM STRAIT AND LOWER CHATHAM STRAIT AREAS CLOSURE DATE

Petersburg . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the commercial golden king crab fishery in the Mid-Chatham Strait and Lower Chatham Strait management areas will close at 12:00 noon, **Sunday, June 2, 2019**. These areas are being closed in response to continued poor fishery performance, recruitment, and concern for the long-term reproductive potential of golden king crab. Stock status in these areas continues to remain at historically low levels similar to the time period in the 1990s when stocks were collapsed and the department in response took conservative measures by routinely closing fishing areas before harvests reached preseason guideline harvest levels (GHL). The data, specifically catch per unit effort (CPUE), is similar to past seasons when inseason closures were implemented.

The 2019 GHL for golden king crab in Mid-Chatham Strait was 8,000 pounds with approximately 3,408 pounds harvested through May 16, 2019. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) has averaged 3.3 crab per pot in Mid-Chatham Strait from 2000–2018, while the average CPUE this season is at a historical low of 1.2 crab per pot. The amount of golden king crab landed per boat/per day thus far in the current season is approximately 12 pounds per boat/per day which is well below the 2000–2018 average of 112 pounds per boat/per day.

The 2019 GHL for golden king crab in Lower Chatham Strait was 14,000 pounds with harvest remaining confidential due to fewer than 3 permits participating in the fishery. Progress towards harvesting the GHL through May 16 is below 15% suggesting the GHL is not attainable. This season's CPUE is one of the lowest on record from 2000–2018.

This action will bring the 2018/2019 golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A to a close. A vessel may leave gear in a stored condition for seven days after the closure of Registration Area A [5 AAC 34.127(1)]. All gear must be removed from the Mid-Chatham Strait and Lower Chatham Strait Areas no later than 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1619.

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

| Office | Ketchikan | Petersburg | Wrangell | Sitka    | Juneau   | Haines   | Yakutat  |
|--------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ADF&G  | 225-5195  | 772-3801   | 874-3822 | 747-6688 | 465-4250 | 766-2830 | 784-3255 |
| AWT    | 225-5111  | 772-3983   | 874-3215 | 747-3254 | 465-4000 | 766-2533 | 784-3255 |