Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 19, 2020

2019/2020 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY SOUTHERN AREA CLOSURE DATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Douglas. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the commercial golden king crab fishery in the Southern management area will close at 12:00 noon, March 27, 2020. Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest is expected to reach the 21,000-pound guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Southern Area by the closure date. Permit holders are reminded that call-in requirements remain in effect for all current registrants. Permit holders are also requested to notify the department when they cease fishing.

This action will bring the 2019/2020 golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A to a close. A vessel may leave gear in a stored condition for seven days following the closure of Registration Area A [5 AAC 34.127(1)]. All gear must be removed from the Southern Area no later than 12:00 noon, April 3, 2020. Gear storage extensions due to extreme weather conditions or a major vessel breakdown may be obtained by contacting department shellfish staff [5 AAC 34.052(b)] before 12:00 noon, April 3, 2020.

All commercial golden king crab must be landed within 24 hours of a closure. Permit holders unable to meet this deadline must contact department shellfish staff within the 24 hours following the closure to request authorization to possess golden king crab for an extended period [5 AAC 34.031(e)(2)].

Contact numbers for requesting extended holding and gear storage extensions are as follows:

Joe Stratman: (907) 772-5238, (907) 518-0755
Adam Messmer: (907) 465-4853, (907) 723-3342
April Rebert: (907) 465-4274
Tessa Bergmann: (907) 772-5236, (907) 518-4421

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1020.