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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

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2022/23 Preseason Vessel Registration for Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Eastern and Western Bering Sea Tanner Crab, and Bering Sea Snow Crab Fisheries

Preseason vessel registration for the 2022/23 Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries begins August 18, 2022. Total allowable catches (TAC) will be announced in subsequent news releases in early October. Announcement of preseason vessel registration does not imply a fishery will open during the 2022/23 season. This process is critical in determining the number of observers that will be needed to meet coverage level goals.

One preseason vessel registration form will be filled out for all fisheries. Registration port signifies the location of the vessel at the time of registration for a fishery, not at the time the preseason registration form is filled out. Primary delivery location is the processor and port where most of the vessel's deliveries for a fishery will occur.

The completed form should be submitted to the Dutch Harbor office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) via email, fax, or in person. It must be received no later than September 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit card is not required to preseason register.

The preseason vessel registration form and lists of vessels that have preseason registered for each fishery may be accessed online: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/cfregion4/dynamic/shellfish/management/vesreg/index>.

For the 2022/23 crab season, ADF&G has modified vessel selection plan for the Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering Sea snow, Eastern and Western Bairdi Tanner crab fisheries. To ensure observer coverage goals are met, all vessels pre-season registered for these fisheries will be selected for observer coverage. It is the responsibility of the vessel captains to contact Saltwater, Inc. for observer coverage, to include notifying them if you choose not to participate in these fisheries. Saltwater Inc. may be contacted at (907) 539-2548. Failure to provide a minimum of 10 days notice prior to vessel departure may delay fishing operations or result in enforcement action. Observer coverage waivers will not be issued if an observer is not available due to lack of sufficient notice.

Selected catcher vessels will be required to carry an observer during 100 percent of fishing operations. Catcher vessel observer coverage for these fisheries is contracted and paid for by ADF&G.

Each crab processing vessel is required to carry a crab observer during 100 percent of the vessel's crab processing operations. Bering Sea crab processing vessels must arrange and pay for their observer coverage. However, catcher-processor vessels may receive reimbursement from ADF&G for 20 percent of their observer cost for Bristol Bay red king crab, and 30 percent of observer costs for Bering Sea snow and Tanner crab fisheries.

All vessels must provide proof of compliance with United States Coast Guard (USCG) vessel safety requirements. USCG dockside examinations are available in Seattle, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor.

For vessels that carry observers, noteworthy regulatory requirements for the vessel operator to consider include:

- Provide adequate food and accommodations for the observer equal to those provided for the vessel's crew;

- Provide to the observer daily catch information for each string of fishing gear including areas fished, number of crab retained, pot locations, number of pots pulled, and other information specified by ADF&G;
- Provide a safe work area and necessary gear, including five totes for the observer to use at all times for sampling;
- Assure observer access to single side band (SSB) radio, email, or telephone.

For further information please contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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