

Division of Commercial Fisheries  
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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: November 28, 2023*

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### SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FALL SEASON CLOSURE

The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A will close in most areas by regulation at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023, consistent with 5 AAC 32.110. Districts 1 and 2, and Section 13-B outside of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area [5 AAC 32.150(10)] will remain open through February 28, 2024.

For those areas that close at 11:59 p.m. on November 30, all Dungeness pots must be removed from the water except that pots may be stored on the grounds, with all pot doors secured fully open and all bait and bait containers removed, for no more than 72 hours [5 AAC 32.052(b)(2)(A)]. **Reporting of lost pots, or pots left in a closed area in fishing condition should be directed to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) offices in Juneau, Ketchikan, or Petersburg (contact numbers are listed below).**

As per 5 AAC 32.031(d), all Dungeness crab must be landed within 24 hours of a closure. Vessel operators unable to meet this deadline must contact regional shellfish staff **within** the 24 hours following the closure to request authorization to possess Dungeness crab for a longer period of time. Additionally, gear storage extensions due to extreme weather or vessel breakdown may be obtained by contacting regional shellfish staff [5 AAC 32.052(c)] before 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 3, 2023.

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

Joe Stratman: (907) 772-5238  
Tessa Bergmann: (907) 772-5236  
Adam Messmer: (907) 465-4853  
Zane Chapman: (907) 465-4274

Advisory announcement 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		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255