



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 7, 2026

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2026/27 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FALL/WINTER FISHERY

The 2026/27 commercial Dungeness crab fall fishing season in Registration Area A (Southeast Alaska) will be reduced in duration. **All waters open to commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Southeast Alaska will open at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2026, and will close at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2026.**

As previously announced for the 2026 commercial Dungeness crab fishery, in accordance with the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan [5 AAC 32.146(3)], the department has completed an analysis of the incidence of legal-size male soft-shelled crabs caught early in the summer season. Based on data from port sampling and fish tickets, the department has determined that the proportion of legal-size male soft-shelled Dungeness crabs discarded during the first week of the summer season was above the previous three-year average, but the amount was not a contributing factor in failing to meet the 2.25 million pound harvest projection threshold described in the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan. Therefore, per 5 AAC 32.146(2)(B), the commercial Dungeness crab fall fishing season in Southeast Alaska will be open for 30 days.

Lost Gear

Reporting of lost pots should be directed to your local Alaska Wildlife Trooper office in the following locations:

- Haines (907) 766-2533
- Juneau (907) 465-4000
- Petersburg (907) 772-3983
- Wrangell (907) 874-3215
- Sitka (907) 747-3254
- Ketchikan (907) 225-5111

Closed Waters

Regulatory closed waters within Registration Area A (Figures 1 and 2) are listed in 5 AAC 32.150. Permit holders are reminded that the closed waters for Shinaku Inlet, Whale Pass, and Natzuhini Bay were adopted into regulation at the 2022 Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting. Waters of Glacier Bay are closed by federal regulation to commercial Dungeness crab fishing. Please contact the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve at (907) 697-2230 for more information.

Permit holders are reminded that the Annette Islands Reserve is a federally recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are designated to be within the fishing reserve. Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants. For more information on these closed waters, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office of law enforcement at (907) 247-5804.

European Green Crab

Since 2022, when European green crab were first detected in Southeast Alaska, their distribution and abundance has expanded. Their presence has been documented around parts of Revillagigedo Island, Gravina Island, Prince of Wales Island, the Cleveland Peninsula, and as far north as southern Etolin Island. More information on European green crab, including how to identify and report sightings of suspect crabs, can be found on the department's website at:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=invasiveprofiles.europeangreencrab_characteristics.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C5626.

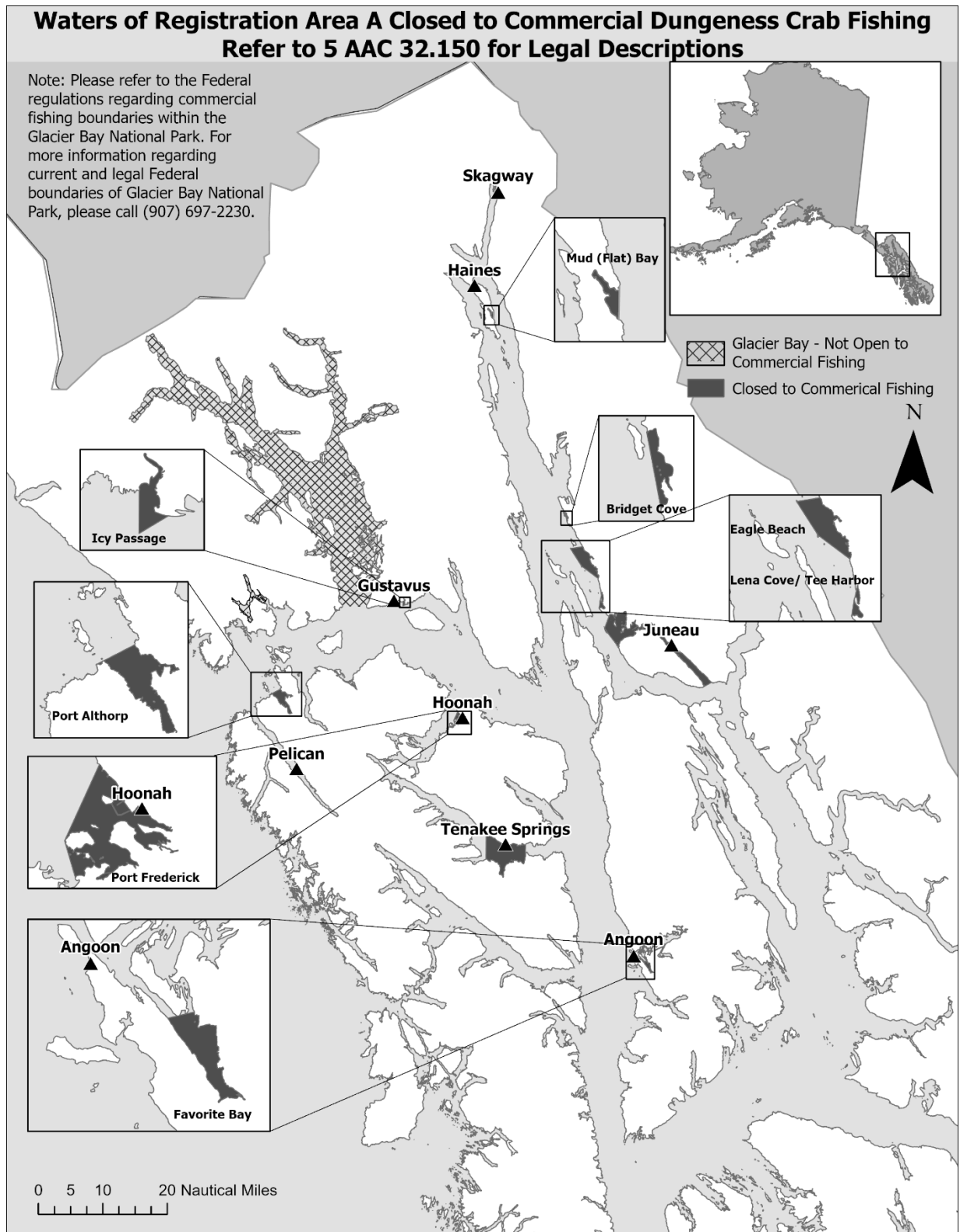


Figure 1.—Closed areas for the 2026/27 commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the northern portion of Registration Area A. This map is intended for general reference only. Please refer to 5 AAC 32.150 for legal descriptions of closed areas.

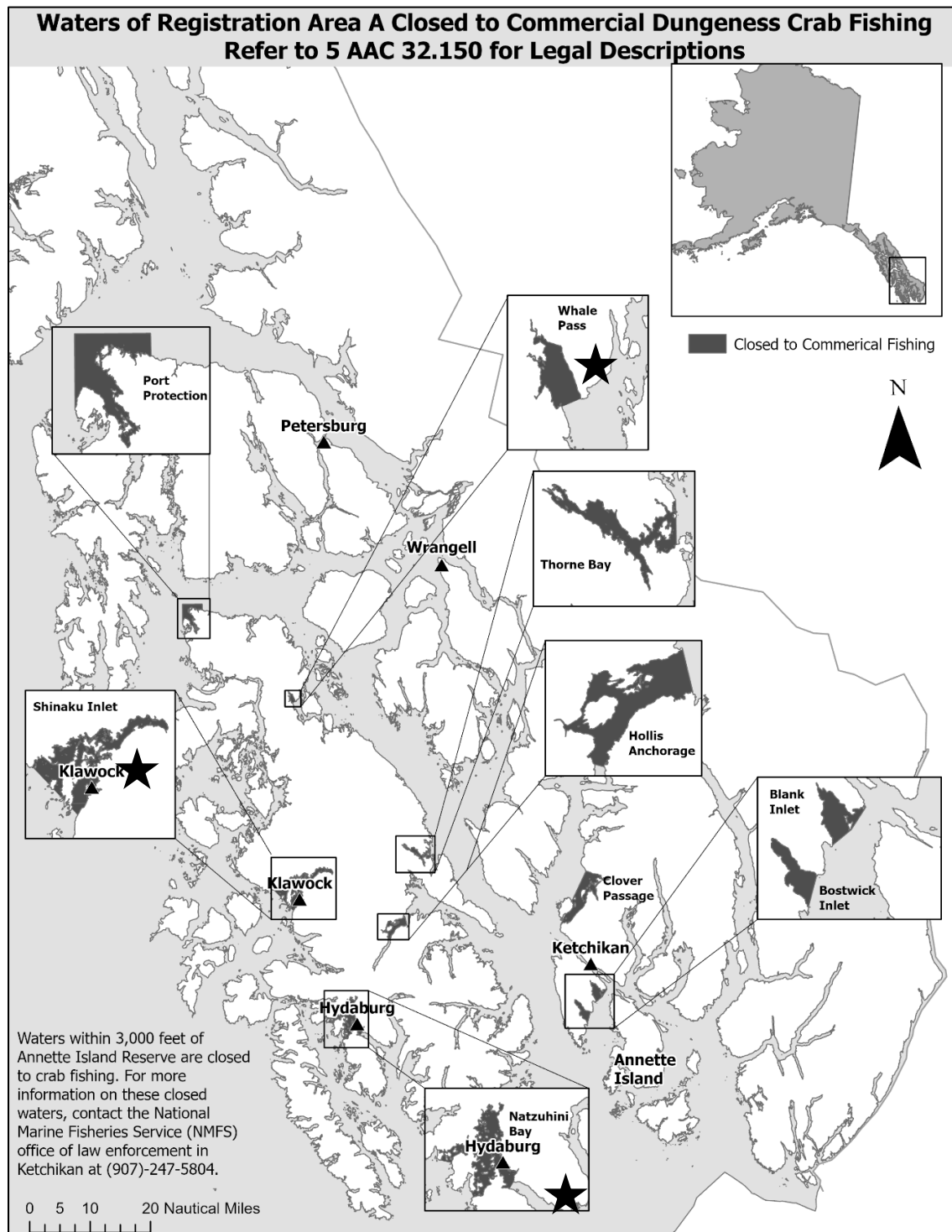


Figure 2.—Closed areas for the 2026/27 commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the southern portion of Registration Area A. The stars mark the closed areas which went into effect on September 25, 2022. This map is intended for general reference only. Please refer to 5 AAC 32.150 for legal descriptions of closed areas.

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	784-3220