Exporting Live Dungeness Crab by Vessel

Live Dungeness crab, species Cancer magister, may be taken, shipped, transported, or sent from the state by means of surface transportation if the crab are taken at a time and location in the state for which the Department of Environmental Conservation does not require seafood processors to test Dungeness crab for the presence of marine toxins. (Sec. 16.10.240. Transportation of Live Crab)

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holders who harvest Dungeness crab may export live Dungeness crab by obtaining a Catcher Exporter Fisheries Business License from the Department of Revenue (DOR). A Direct Marketer or Catcher Processor Fisheries Business License may be appropriate if the fisherman wants to process crab or fish themselves, as well as export their own Dungeness crab. A Buyer-Exporter Fisheries Business License is needed to purchase Dungeness crab from fishermen and export the crab out of Alaska. The Revenue Online system is used to apply for Fisheries Business Licenses. ADF&G issues code plates and fish tickets when the license is approved.

For information, contact the DOR Fisheries Business License Help Desk at (907) 375-6454, Revenue Online System https://online-tax.alaska.gov/ATP/WebDoc/ and the ADF&G Seafood Industry Coordinator at (907) 465-6131.

At this time, a permit from Department of Environmental Conservation is not required in the wholesale activities of live crab, including transporting them. A NOAA Export Health Certificate is not required when a tender vessel moves live product from Alaska waters, Canada, to the lower 48 States. International laws and regulations may change so it is highly recommended that operators check with Canadian Customs for any requirements prior to shipping.

Vessels used for commercial fishing or related activities must be licensed by the CFEC and must be registered before fishing or transporting unprocessed fish in any waters of Alaska. This includes fishing vessels, tender/packers, and processing and transporter vessels. Vessels with a valid certificate of documentation issued by the Coast Guard must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). (Vessels that are not documented by the Coast Gard must be titled and registered with the DMV.) The DMV will accept a mailed, emailed (doa.dmv.correspondence@alaska.gov) or faxed (907) 269-3762 application. Send a completed DMV form B1 and a copy of the current Certificate of Documentation issued by the Coast Guard. Include a phone number so the DMV can call for payment of fees. DMV will mail the registration and decal after receiving payment.

For information, contact the CFEC: https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/ or call (907) 789-6150 and the DMV at http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reg/boat.htm

Everyone on board the transporting vessel acting as a crew member needs a crew member license which can be purchased at https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/

A vessel used to tender Dungeness crab must register with a local representative of the department who is located within the registration area or district in which the vessel will be tendering.

The Catcher Exporter reports the Dungeness crab harvested on ADF&G fish tickets, imprinted with his/her CFEC permit and Catcher Exporter code plate, and submits the fish tickets to a local representative of the department no later than seven days after a delivery or partial delivery. A fish ticket is completed when the harvest is transferred from the fishing vessel to the vessel (tender) that will transport the crab out of state. A copy of the fish ticket(s) must accompany the crab that are transported out of state.

Before a vessel used to tender Dungeness crab leaves a Dungeness crab registration area or district, the operator of the tendering vessel must contact in person, or by radio or telephone, a local representative of the department who is located in the registration area and state the amount, by weight or number, of Dungeness crab on board and the vessel's unloading destination. (5 AAC 32.033)