

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: 10/08/2021

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Pribilof District Red and Blue King Crab Seasons Closed **Emergency Order # 4-SF-09-21**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service have completed analysis of 2021 NMFS trawl survey results for Pribilof District red and blue king crabs. Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2021/22 season.

The 2021 Pribilof District blue king crab abundance estimates remain below the federal minimum stock size threshold and the stock has been declared overfished. Total mature biomass also falls below minimum harvest strategy thresholds required for a fishery. Therefore, the Pribilof District blue king crab fishery will remain closed for the 2021/22 season.

Due to uncertainty in Pribilof District red king crab abundance estimates and high potential for blue king crab bycatch during a red king crab fishery, the Pribilof District red king crab fishery will also remain closed for the 2021/22 season.

To decrease the likelihood of bycatch of Pribilof Island blue king crab and prevent over-fishing from occurring, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has closed waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands to commercial crab fishing for the 2021/22 fishing season. This closure also applies to commercial fishing for Pacific cod for use as bait in the Bering Sea crab fisheries.

Waters enclosed by connecting the following coordinates are closed to the operation of commercial king and Tanner crab pot gear and commercial groundfish pot gear for Pacific cod taken as bait during commercial IFQ/CDQ crab fisheries from October 15, 2021, through June 1, 2022:

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
58° N	171° W
58° N	168° W
57° N	168° W
56°30' N	169° W
56°30' N	170° W
57° N	171°
58° N	171° W

The associated closed ADF&G statistical areas are: 685730, 695730, 705730, 705701, 705703, 695701, 695700, 685700, 695631, 695632, the northeast half of 705630, and the northwest half of 685630. A map of the closed area will be provided at the time of registration.

For further information contact ADF&G Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239, or ADF&G Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>

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