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## **Advisory Announcement**

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2020

## YAKUTAT 2020/2021 DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT COMMERCIAL AND PERSONAL USE SEASONS TO REMAIN CLOSED

Petersburg... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the commercial fishery for Dungeness crab in Registration Area D (Yakutat) will remain closed for the 2020/2021 fishing season. The commercial fishery has been closed since 2000 after being designated as collapsed and recovering by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. A survey of the Yakutat Area Dungeness crab stock conducted in May 2004 showed no signs of stock recovery. The department resurveyed the Yakutat Dungeness stock in June 2012 and June 2013, and while survey catches improved from 2004, the stock has not recovered to a level that will sustain commercial removals.

The personal use Dungeness crab fishery in Yakutat was closed in 2004. The closure was addressed annually by emergency order until 2018 when the Alaska Board of Fisheries removed the personal use fishery from regulation.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 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 Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <a href="https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/">https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/</a>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C0800.

Advisory Announcement web site: <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main</a>.

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