

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 15, 2020

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Prince William Sound Area
Golden King Crab Test Fishery Opportunity

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is requesting bids from qualified bidders for harvesting and purchasing golden (brown) king crab from the Prince William Sound Area (PWS). Bids will be based on a price/pound of golden king crab with a maximum harvest of 15,000 lb. Bid amount is the price that the bidder will pay ADF&G per pound of golden king crab harvested. There will be one winning bidder that will be awarded the contract to harvest and purchase the 15,000 lb of golden king crab.

The contractor (awarded bidder) must be fully licensed to process crab in the State of Alaska at the time a bid is tendered. In addition to possession of a valid 2020 Alaska Business License, the contractor must at least possess a valid 2020 Alaska Seafood Processor and Exporter License and Permit, consisting of an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Seafood Processing Permit, Alaska Department of Revenue License, and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game Intent to Operate. It is the contractor's responsibility to obtain all other state and federal permits and licenses necessary to operate a seafood processing facility in the State of Alaska. The contractor, upon request, must furnish copies of all applicable permits and licenses to the State. The contractor must be able to subcontract at least two vessels capable of king crab harvesting. The contractor is responsible for ensuring all terms listed in the Invitation to Bid (ITB) for vessels, vessel crew, harvesting practices, purchasing, and reporting are followed. A bid will be awarded to the highest responsive and responsible bidder that meets the requirements as defined within this document. Legislative intent for ADF&G's budget is to receive fair market value including price adjustments, if applicable, for all test-fishery program contracts.

Under this ITB, ADF&G will conduct a test fishery for the harvest and purchase of legal PWS (Registration Area E) golden king crab between September 1, 2020 and October 30, 2020. The purpose of this test fishery is to gather information on the current health of the PWS golden king crab stock. Specifically, the goal is to collect information on legal male catch rate, male size composition, and distribution of golden king crab in the inside waters of PWS. Test fishing is authorized under State of Alaska statute 16.05.050(14). No high grading may occur by the harvesting vessel and all legal crab must be retained. Legal golden king crab are male crab 7 inches or greater in carapace width (including spines).

All golden king crab harvested in the test fishery must be from the inside waters of PWS. The maximum harvest of 15,000 lb will be distributed across three lots with 5,000 lb allocated to each lot. Within each lot, no more than 2,500 lb may be harvested from a single statistical area. Fishing in an individual statistical area will close once 2,500 lb has been harvested and fishing in a lot will close once 5,000 lb has been harvested. A maximum of 25 pots may be soaking (fishing) in a statistical area at one time and a maximum of 50 pots may be soaking (fishing) in a lot at one time. Vessels may not harvest from more than one lot per delivery.

Bid documents can be obtained from the State's online public notice page at <http://notice.alaska.gov/198857> or by emailing Dave Mitchell, Procurement Specialist at dave.mitchell@alaska.gov . ITB 210000002

Bids must be received by 1:30 pm August 5, 2020. See ITB for submission information.

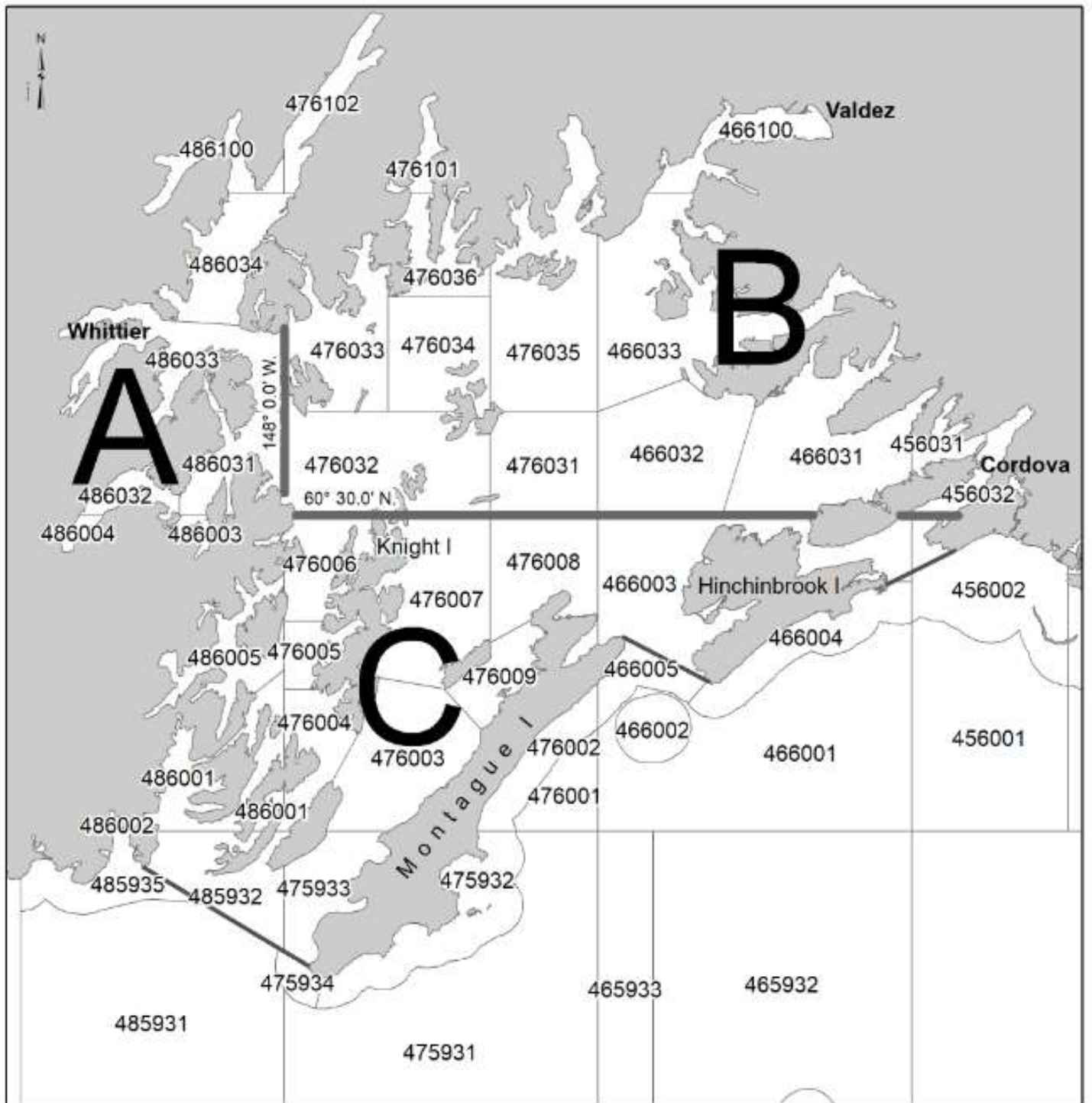


Figure 1.—Prince William Sound Area Golden King Crab Test Fishery Lots (A-C) with statistical areas