



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: August 11, 2020

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB CLOSURE

The summer season for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A (Southeast) will close by regulation **at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 15, 2020**, consistent with 5 AAC 32.110. Reporting of lost pots, or pots left in a closed area in fishing condition, should be directed to Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) offices in Juneau or Ketchikan.

All Dungeness crab must be landed within 24 hours of a closure [5 AAC 32.031(d)]. Vessel operators unable to meet this deadline must contact department shellfish staff **within the 24 hours following the closure** to request authorization to possess Dungeness crab for an extended period. To request extended holding, contact Joe Stratman in Petersburg at (907) 518-0755 or April Rebert in Douglas at (907) 465-4274.

A person may store Dungeness crab pots in waters closed to fishing for Dungeness crab for no more than seven days after the closure to fishing for Dungeness crab in Registration Area A, if all pot doors are secured fully open and all bait and bait containers are removed [5 AAC 32.052(b)(1)(A)]. Gear storage extensions due to extreme weather or a major vessel breakdown may be obtained by contacting department shellfish staff [5 AAC 32.052(c)] **before** 11:59 p.m., Saturday, August 22, 2020. To request a gear storage extension, contact Joe Stratman in Petersburg at (907) 518-0755 or April Rebert in Douglas at (907) 465-4274.

The Southeast Alaska commercial Dungeness crab fishery will reopen for the fall/winter season at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020 [5 AAC 32.110]. The department will issue a news release on the fall/winter commercial Dungeness crab season prior to the opening.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, 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: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

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