



## Advisory Announcement

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## UPDATE: SOUTHEAST ALASKA RED AND BLUE KING CRAB PERSONAL USE FISHERY

The Southeast Alaska personal use red (RKC) and blue king crab (BKC) fishery outside of Section 11-A is updated with the following information regarding the 2020/2021 season:

- **Peril Strait, Lynn Sisters, Seymour Canal, Pybus Bay and Gambier Bay will remain closed to RKC and BKC personal use fishing.**
- **Excursion Inlet will close to RKC and BKC personal use fishing on September 26, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.**
- **Alaska residents fishing for RKC and BKC must have an Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2020/2021 Southeast Alaska Regional Personal Use King Crab Permit (excluding Section 11-A red and blue king crab) [5 AAC 77.664(a)].**
- **All areas open to personal use king crab fishing will have a daily bag and possession limit of one RKC or BKC as prescribed in regulation [5 AAC 77.664(b)]. The 2020 stock assessment survey results estimated 97,881 pounds of legal male RKC available for harvest which is below the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds [5 AAC 77.664(b)], warranting reductions in daily bag and possession limits to promote stock health recovery while maintaining harvest opportunity.**

The permit is free and available through the department's online store at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/). Personal use fishermen must sign their permit in ink to make it valid and have the permit along with a current sport fishing license in their possession while taking part in personal use king crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Regional personal use king crab permits are valid for RKC and BKC in all open areas except Section 11-A which is managed under a separate permit. Permits must be filled out each time king crab pots or ring nets are retrieved (or dive gear is used) whether king crab are harvested or not, before leaving the fishing area. Permit holders are required to report their harvest either online any time at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/> or by turning in the completed permit at the end of the season.

### **2020 Survey and Fishery Information:**

All RKC and BKC fisheries are closed in all areas of Southeast Alaska by regulation from April 1 through June 30 [5 AAC 77.664(c)(1)] each year to protect crab during the molting and mating season. From July 1 through March 31, open fishing periods for the personal use RKC and BKC fisheries may be adjusted by emergency order. The department conducts an annual RKC and BKC stock assessment survey in seven areas throughout Southeast Alaska including: 1) the Juneau Area (Section 11-A), 2) Lynn Sisters, 3) Excursion Inlet, 4) Pybus Bay, 5) Gambier Bay, 6) Seymour Canal, and 7) Peril Strait. Surveys begin in late June/early July and conclude in August. Data from surveys is used to manage commercial and personal use RKC and BKC fisheries. The remaining waters of Southeast Alaska outside the areas surveyed are referred to as "non-surveyed" areas. Information and trends from the surveyed areas are used to infer management decisions for non-surveyed areas.

Due to the 2020 RKC and BKC stock assessment survey not being completed on July 1, 2020, decisions regarding the personal use RKC and BKC fisheries were based on 2019 stock assessment survey results. Now that the 2020 survey is complete and the department has finalized the analysis of 2020 stock assessment survey results, new information is available to manage the fisheries. Survey results include several highlights:

- Regionwide the harvestable biomass of mature RKC and BKC is below 200,000 lbs.
- Stock health in Gambier Bay remained poor.
- Stock health in Lynn Sisters has improved slightly but remains categorized as moderate with male recruitment and legal biomass concerns.
- Stock health in Seymour Canal and Peril Strait improved to below average, but both showed a decrease in mature and legal biomass.
- Stock health in Pybus Bay improved slightly but remains categorized as below average, with mature male biomass levels a concern.
- Excursion Inlet declined from below average to poor.
- All non-surveyed areas appear to have stocks that can withstand some level of harvest.

### **Juneau Area: Section 11-A:**

Status of the winter RKC and BKC personal use fishery within Section 11-A will be addressed in a separate advisory announcement at a later date. For more information on the RKC and BKC personal use fishery for the Juneau area (Section 11-A) please contact April Rebert at (907) 465-4274.

### **Closed Area Descriptions:**

- Peril Strait: Section 13-C, Peril Strait (all waters of Peril Strait including Hoonah Sound, Ushk Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay, and contiguous waters west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher, and north of a line from Pogibshi Point due west to the Chichagof shoreline).
- Lynn Sisters: Waters north of a line from a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°06.50' W long, due east to a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°03.00' W long, and west of a line from a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°03.00' W long, to Point Whidbey including St. James Bay.
- Seymour Canal: Section 11-D, Seymour Canal (all waters of Seymour Canal north of 57°37.00' N lat).
- Gambier Bay: Gambier Bay waters north and west of a line between Point Gambier and 57°24.90' N lat, 133°53.00' W long.
- Pybus Bay: Pybus Bay waters north and west of a line from Point Pybus to the easternmost tip of San Juan Island and from there to a point at 57°14.60' N lat, 134°07.30' W long.
- Excursion Inlet: Waters east of a line from a point at 58°22.57' N lat, 135°30.08' W long, south to a point at 58°19.28' N lat, 135°30.06' W long, and north of a line from a point at 58°19.28' N lat, 135°30.06' W long to a point at 58°16.13' N lat, 135°20.61' W long including Excursion Inlet.

Refer to Figure 1 showing open and closed waters for personal use RKC and BKC fishing.

### **Other Information:**

**A personal use fishing permit issued by the department is required to take king crab for each household; households may not be issued multiple permits of the same type per year. A permit holder or a household member listed on the permit must have the permit in possession when fishing. Southeast king crab personal use permits can be obtained online at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>. The fishing report section of your permit must be submitted online or returned to your ADF&G Regional Office before June 23, 2021, even if you did not fish. Report online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/PU/>.**

Fishermen are reminded that male RKC and BKC must be seven inches or greater in width of shell to be retained [5 AAC 77.664(d)]. Male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

For the areas open to personal use king crab fishing outside of Section 11-A, **no more than 4 pots or 10 ring nets per vessel may be used for king and Tanner crab.** A pot used to take king crab must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot that are not less than six and one-quarter inches inside diameter. Each fisherman shall plainly and legibly inscribe the fisherman's first initial, last name, and home address on a keg or buoy attached to a pot. A keg or buoy attached to the pot must also be inscribed with the vessel name or the division of motor vehicles registration number (AK number) of the vessel used to operate the pot [5 ACC 77.010 and 5 AAC 77.664(h)].

For additional information visit the Southeast Alaska Personal Use King Crab Fishery website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreasoutheastkingCrab.regs>. Please refer to 5 AAC 77.664 in the 2019-2020 Statewide Subsistence and Personal Use Fishing Regulations booklet for additional regulations regarding personal use RKC and BKC fishing, or view the regulations online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1920.

Advisory announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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# Personal Use Red and Blue King Crab Areas in Registration Area A

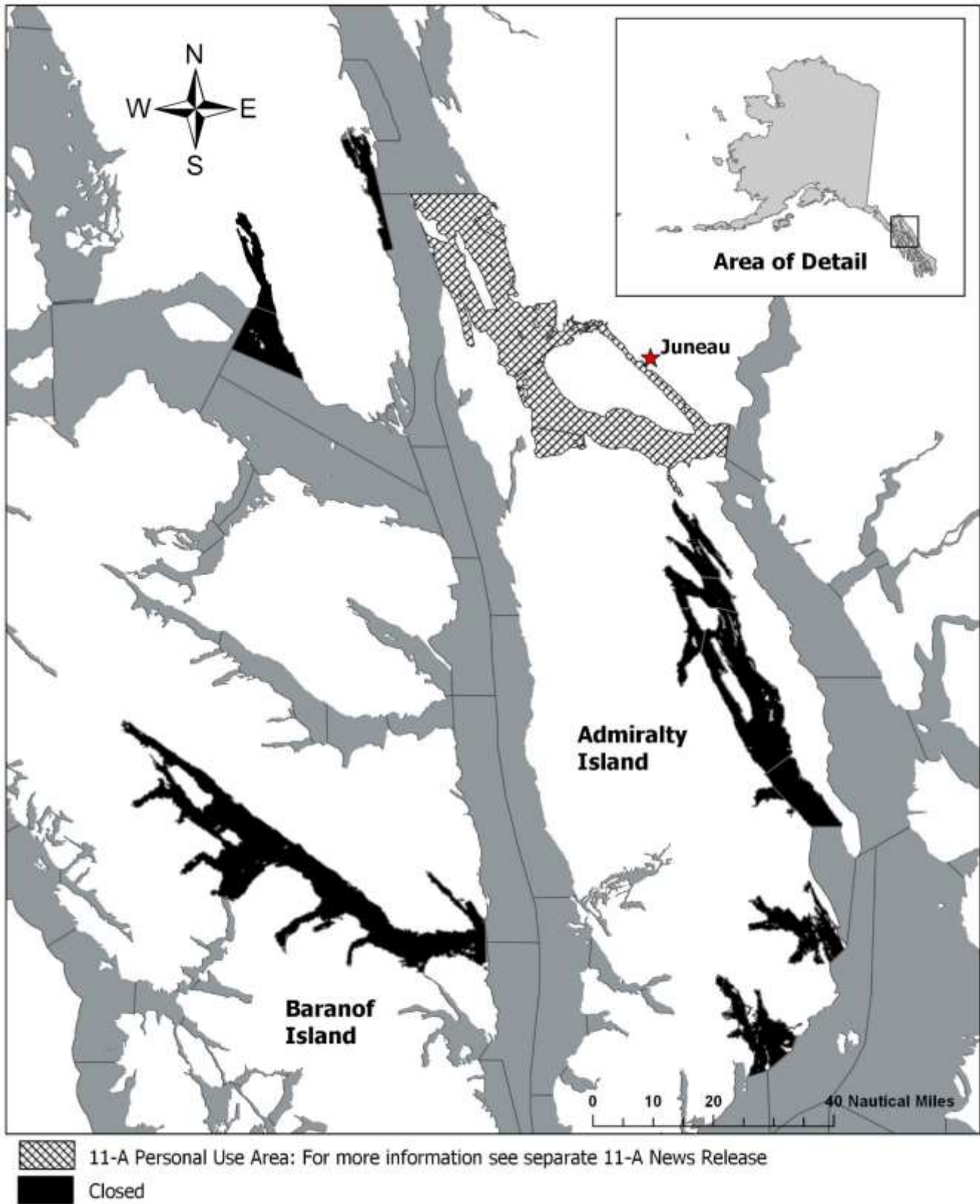


Figure 1. This map shows closed areas for the 2020/2021 RKC and BKC personal use fishery and is for reference purposes only. Please refer to text in this advisory announcement for legal descriptions of management area boundaries and other details.