



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 22, 2021

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**2020/21 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY
EAST CENTRAL AREA CLOSURE**

The commercial golden king crab (GKC) fishery in the East Central management area will close at 12:00 noon, **Wednesday, May 5, 2021**. The department evaluated fishery performance using fishery dependent indicators after exceeding the minimum requirement of 500 pot lifts per the recommended GKC harvest strategy:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/southeast/gkc_for_comments_v3_ao.pdf.

The East Central management area is being closed in response to continued poor fishery performance despite re-opening after a one-year closure to promote stock rebuilding and recovery. GKC are vulnerable to overexploitation once fished below sustainable levels given their slow growth and late maturation. The guideline harvest level for GKC in the East Central management area is 11,500 lbs and through April 21, 2021, 7,085 lbs have been harvested by four vessels. The average catch per unit effort (CPUE) at the time of this announcement is 1.6 crab/pot, which is less than the corresponding trigger (2.5 crab/pot) and limit (1.7 crab/pot) reference points.

Permit holders are reminded that call-in requirements remain in effect for all current registrants. Permit holders are also requested to notify the department when they change areas or cease fishing for the season.

The department will continue to monitor fishery performance via harvest ticket/logbook and port sampling data for the remaining open management areas: Mid-Chatham Strait and Lower Chatham Strait. Additional management actions may be taken as necessary, and the department will provide as much advance notice as possible for future area closures.

A vessel may leave gear in stored condition for five days following the closure of a portion of Registration Area A [5 AAC 34.127(2)]. All gear must be removed from the East Central management area no later than 12:00 noon, May 10, 2021.

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/>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1321.

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

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