

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner  
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Date Issued: Sept. 30, 2009

**2009/10 PRIBILOF DISTRICT KING CRAB SEASON**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2009 NMFS trawl survey results for Pribilof District red and blue king crab. King crab population and biomass estimates for this area are based on area-swept survey data and the ADF&G catch-survey analysis model (CSA). Based on survey results, the Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2009/10 season.

Survey results of Pribilof District blue king crabs indicate continued very-low abundance. The minimum threshold for a fishery opening is a total mature biomass (TMB) estimate of at least 13.2 million pounds of blue king crabs for two consecutive years. The 2009 estimate of TMB is well below the threshold required to open the fishery. The Pribilof blue king crab stock has not achieved the minimum threshold for opening and will remain closed.

CSA abundance estimates for mature male red king crabs in the Pribilof District decreased slightly from the 2008 level and the 2009 mature male abundance estimate is among the lowest on record since the early 1990s. Due to the low abundance estimate for red king crabs, the high uncertainty on the red king crab abundance estimate, potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, the red king crab fishery in the Pribilof District will remain closed for the 2009/10 season.

For further information contact the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239 or in Kodiak, at (907) 486-1840.

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