

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



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PRIBILOF DISTRICT KING CRAB SEASON

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2010 NMFS trawl survey results for Pribilof District red and blue king crab. Pribilof District king crab population and biomass estimates for 2010 are based on area-swept survey data. The Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2010/2011 season.

Survey results for Pribilof District blue king crabs indicate continued very-low abundance. In order to open the Pribilof District blue king crab fishery, a minimum threshold of 13.2-million pounds of total mature biomass (TMB) must be achieved in two consecutive years. Both the 2009 and 2010 estimates of TMB are well below this threshold; therefore the fishery will remain closed.

Abundance estimates for mature and legal-size male red king crabs in the Pribilof District increased from the 2009 level, however there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the precision of those estimates. Due to the high uncertainty surrounding the red king crab abundance estimate, potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, and poor performance of recent ADF&G pot surveys and cost-recovery fishing efforts in the Pribilof District, the Pribilof District red king crab fishery will remain closed for the 2010/2011 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.