

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



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PRIBILOF DISTRICT RED AND BLUE KING CRAB SEASON

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2011 NMFS trawl survey results for Pribilof District red and blue king crabs. Pribilof District king crab population and biomass estimates for 2011 are based on area-swept survey data. The Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2011/2012 season.

Survey results for Pribilof District blue king crab 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 2010 and 2011 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 has increased over the prior year; however, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the precision of the 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 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 2011/2012 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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