

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



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**ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY OPENS AUGUST 15
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ANNOUNCED**

The 2008/09 Aleutian Islands (Area O) commercial golden king crab fishery will open noon on Friday, August 15, 2008 and close at 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2009 for Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ) and the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. A total allowable catch (TAC) of 5.985 million pounds is established for the golden king crab fishery. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W long. The eastern TAC of 3.15 million pounds is apportioned as follows:

IFQ	2,835,000
CDQ	315,000

The western TAC of 2.835 million pounds is apportioned as follows:

IFQ	2,551,500
ACA	283,500

Regulations require proof of a valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Safety Decal and an activated vessel monitoring system approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) before an ADF&G vessel registration is issued. The operator of a vessel participating in an IFQ, CDQ or ACA crab fishery must notify the USCG at least 24-hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted at the following numbers: Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, (907) 581-3466, and Kodiak, (907) 486-5918.

Preseason inspections by ADF&G will only be available in Dutch Harbor, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Monday, August 11, 2008. Vessel registration will begin at noon in Dutch Harbor on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. An individual holding a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC)

2008 Aleutian Islands king crab interim use permit card (K91O or K09O) must be aboard the vessel when it is registered. Vessels may concurrently fish IFQ and CDQ in the eastern Aleutian Islands or IFQ and ACA in the western Aleutian Islands but a separate registration and CFEC permit card is required for each fishery. At the time of registration, all pots onboard the vessel or in wet storage must be in compliance with current Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishing regulations.

Catcher-only vessels are required to carry an observer for 50% of the weight of harvested golden king crab on each vessel during each of three trimesters (August 15 to November 15, November 16 to February 15, and February 16 to May 15) in each fishery, the eastern and western Aleutian Islands. Catcher-processor vessels are required to carry an observer for 100% of all fishing activity. Observer coverage on all vessels in this fishery is pay-as-you-go.

Vessel operators registered for an IFQ, CDQ, or ACA fishery may designate other registered vessels to operate their gear. This designation must be made at the time of vessel registration by completing a gear authorization form. If a vessel operator transports crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another vessel, then the vessel to which the gear is registered must be active in the registration area where the gear is deployed within seven days of deployment. A validly registered vessel operator may also make a one time transfer of gear operation rights and responsibilities to another vessel operator who is validly registered for the same fishery. The operator of the vessel relinquishing gear operation rights and responsibilities (donor) and the vessel receiving those rights and responsibilities (recipient) must sign an affidavit giving the effective date and time of the transfer and the number of pots being transferred. The affidavit must be signed by a department representative before the pot gear transfer is valid.

Vessel operators shall notify ADF&G within 72-hours of completing fishing operations in a registration area or when departing the registration area and gear is moved to long-term storage. The Board of Fisheries established a 14-day period when unbaited gear may be stored outside of designated storage areas after fishing is completed. Pots must be removed from the water or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than a 14-day period. Additionally, a vessel's registration will be invalidated after 14-days of inactivity in a registration area.

For questions regarding quota share and IFQ, contact NMFS RAM Division at 1-800-304-4846 (option #2). For questions regarding the Crab Rationalization Program, contact NMFS Sustainable Fisheries at (907) 586-7228. For questions regarding enforcement, contact NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in Kodiak at (907) 486-3298 or Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-2061.

For further details 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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