

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



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P.O. Box 920587
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ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY OPENS AUGUST 15, TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ANNOUNCED

The 2006/07 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery will open at NOON on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 and close at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 for Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ) and the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. A total allowable catch (TAC) of 5.7 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 3.0 million pounds is apportioned as follows:

IFQ	2,700,000
CDQ	300,000

The western TAC of 2.7 million pounds is apportioned as follows:

IFQ	2,430,000
ACA	270,000

Current regulations require proof of a valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Safety Decal before a vessel registration is issued. Participating vessels must also have an activated vessel monitoring system approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The operator of a vessel participating in IFQ, CDQ or ACA crab fisheries 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 will only be available in Dutch Harbor, beginning at 9:00 AM, Tuesday, August 8, 2006. Vessel registration will begin at NOON in Dutch Harbor on Saturday, August 12, 2006. An individual holding a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) 2006

Aleutian Islands king crab interim use permit card (K91O or K09O) must be aboard the vessel when it is registered. Vessels may fish concurrently for IFQ, CDQ, and ACA, 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 total golden king crab harvest 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 area. 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.

Vessels participating in IFQ, CDQ, or ACA fisheries may form gear operation cooperatives. Each vessel must register those vessels authorized to operate the vessel's gear at the time of registration. When a vessel transports crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another vessel, the vessel owning the crab pot gear must be active within seven days in the registration area where the crab pot gear is deployed.

Vessel operators shall notify the department 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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