

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



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PRIBILOF DISTRICT RED AND BLUE KING CRAB SEASONS CLOSED

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service have completed analysis of 2017 NMFS trawl survey results for Pribilof District red and blue king crabs. Pribilof District red and blue king crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2017/18 season.

The 2017 area-swept estimates for Pribilof District blue king crab indicate continued low abundance, remaining well below the minimum stock size threshold. Pribilof District blue king crab must meet a minimum threshold of 13.2 million pounds of total mature biomass (TMB) in two consecutive years for the fishery to open. Both the 2016 and 2017 estimates of TMB are well below this threshold; therefore, the fishery will remain closed.

There is considerable uncertainty surrounding precision of Pribilof District red king crab abundance estimates. Given this uncertainty and high potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, the Pribilof District red king crab fishery will remain closed.

For further information contact ADF&G Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239, or ADF&G Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.