

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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner

Scott Kelley Director



Contact:

Miranda Westphal, BSAI Area Management Biologist
Ethan Nichols, BSAI Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 581-1239
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Office
P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

Date Issued: 10/3/2016

**SAINT MATTHEW ISLAND SECTION BLUE KING CRAB
SEASON CLOSED**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2017 NMFS trawl and ADF&G pot survey results for Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab. The 2017 model survey estimate of mature male abundance (1.348 million crab) is below the minimum regulatory threshold of 1.548 million pounds necessary for a fishery opening. Additionally, the 2017 area-swept estimate of mature male abundance (0.986 million crab) is also below the minimum regulatory threshold of 1.587 million crab. Therefore, Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab will be closed for the 2017/18 season.

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

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

-end-