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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: **10/6/2025**

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Bristol Bay Red King Crab Season Opens October 15
Total Allowable Catch Announced

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of 2025 NMFS trawl survey results for the Bristol Bay red king crab stock. The 2025 estimates of mature female red king crab biomass and effective spawning biomass are above both thresholds required to open the fishery in Area T – Bristol Bay. The 2025/26 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will open at 12:00 noon October 15, 2025 and close at 11:59 p.m. January 15, 2026.

The 2025/26 total allowable catch (TAC) for Bristol Bay red king crab Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) is allocated as follows:

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	2,412,000 pounds
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	268,000 pounds
Total	2,680,000 pounds

A valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Decal is required before a vessel registration may be issued. Vessels must also have an activated vessel monitoring system approved by NMFS. The operator of a vessel participating in IFQ or CDQ crab fisheries must notify the USCG at least 24 hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. USCG can be contacted at: (206) 815-6842.

Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands crab fishery registrations will be completed through the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office. An individual holding a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bristol Bay king crab interim use permit card (K09T or K91T) must be present during registration. Fishermen may participate concurrently in IFQ and CDQ fisheries, but a separate CFEC permit card is required for each fishery.

At the time of vessel registration, all pots onboard the vessel and in wet storage must comply with current Bristol Bay red king crab fishing regulations. There is no crab pot limit or buoy tag requirement for the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery. Fishermen may register up to 10 groundfish pots. Fishermen are reminded to report all Pacific cod retained for bait on fish tickets at time of landing.

Fishermen must notify ADF&G within 72 hours of completing fishing operations in the registration area or when departing the registration area with gear in long-term storage or transferred to another vessel. Unbaited gear with doors secured open may be stored for up to 14 days 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 14 days. Vessel registration will be invalidated after 14 days of inactivity in a registration area.

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

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