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Advisory Announcement

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Bering Sea Snow 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 Bering Sea snow crab stock. The 2025 estimate of total mature snow crab biomass is above the threshold required to open the fishery in the Bering Sea District. The 2025/26 Bering Sea snow crab fishery will open in Bering Sea District waters west of 165° W longitude at 12:00 noon October 15, 2025 and close at 11:59 p.m. May 15, 2026 in the Eastern Subdistrict (east of 173° W longitude), and close at 11:59 p.m. May 31, 2026 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude).

The 2025/26 Bering Sea District snow crab fishery total allowable catch (TAC) is apportioned as follows:

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	8,370,000 pounds
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	930,000 pounds
Total	**9,300,000 pounds**

ADF&G recommends a base 2025 snow crab TAC of 8.3 million pounds. Due to the unprecedented high abundance of hybrid *Chionoecetes* crab in the 2025 NMFS trawl survey, ADF&G increased the base snow crab TAC by an additional 1 million pounds to allow vessels to specifically target hybrid *Chionoecetes* crab. In coordination with the Bering Sea crab industry, ADF&G expects that vessels target 1 million pounds or 11% of total 9.3-million-pound Bering Sea District snow crab TAC in the portion of the Bering Sea District with the highest survey abundance of hybrid *Chionoecetes* crab. Based on survey distribution, this area has been identified by ADF&G as waters enclosed by connecting the following coordinates: 58° N, 168° W; 58° N, 165° W; 56° 30′ N, 165° W; 56° 30′N, 168° W; 58° N, 168° W. This area corresponds to ADF&G statistical areas: 655630, 655700, 655730, 665630, 665700, 665730, 675630, 675700, and 675730. A map of the hybrid target area will be provided at the time of registration.

During the directed Bering Sea snow crab fishery in waters west of 165° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent (5%) of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel. During the directed eastern and western Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries in waters west of 165° W long, snow crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the weight of Tanner crab onboard a vessel. Fishermen may not concurrently register for multiple Bering Sea crab fisheries.

To protect the Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock, waters enclosed by connecting the following coordinates: 58° N, 171° W; 58° N, 168° W; 57° N, 168° W; 56° 30′N, 169° W; 56° 30′ N, 170° W; 57° N, 171° W; 58° N, 171° W are closed to the operation of commercial king and Tanner crab pot gear and commercial groundfish pot gear for Pacific cod taken as bait during commercial IFQ/CDQ crab fisheries. The associated closed ADF&G statistical

areas are: 685730, 695730, 705730, 705701, 705703, 695701, 695700, 685700, 695631, 695632, the northeast half of 705630, and the northwest half of 685630. A map of the closed area will be provided at the time of registration.

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) Bering Sea Tanner crab interim use permit card (T91Q or T09Q) 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 Bering Sea snow crab fishing regulations. There is no crab pot limit or buoy tag requirement for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. Fishermen may register up to 20 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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