

Division of Commercial Fisheries  
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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: February 24, 2026*

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### SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB SEASON CLOSURE

The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A (Southeast) will close by regulation in Districts 1 and 2, and Section 13-B outside of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area [5 AAC 32.150(10)], **at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026**, consistent with 5 AAC 32.110(3).

All Dungeness crab must be landed within 24 hours of a closure [5 AAC 32.031(d)]. Vessel operators unable to meet this deadline must contact department shellfish staff **within the 24 hours following the closure** to request authorization to possess Dungeness crab for an extended period.

A person may store Dungeness crab pots in waters closed to fishing for Dungeness crab for no more than seven days after the closure of the Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, if all pot doors are secured fully open and all bait and bait containers are removed [5 AAC 32.052(b)(1)(A)]. Gear storage extensions due to extreme weather or a major vessel breakdown may be obtained by contacting department shellfish staff [5 AAC 32.052(c)] **before 11:59 p.m., Saturday, March 7, 2026**.

**To request a gear storage extension, or to request extended holding of crab, contact Joe Stratman at (907) 772-5238.**

Advisory announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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