

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
**Forrest Bowers, Acting Director**

Douglas Area Office  
802 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Douglas, AK 99824



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner**

PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)

**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: March 7, 2026***

**CONTACT: Adam Messmer**  
**Region I Shellfish Biologist**  
**[adam.messmer@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.messmer@alaska.gov)**  
**(907) 465-4853**

**2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY**  
**EAST CENTRAL AREA CLOSURE**

The commercial golden king crab fishery in the East Central Management Area will close at **5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2026**. Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest is expected to reach the 202,500-pound guideline harvest level for the East Central Management Area by the closure. Permit holders are reminded that daily call-in requirements remain in effect for all current registrants. Permit holders are also requested to notify the department when they change areas or cease fishing.

The department will continue to monitor fishery performance via fish tickets, logbooks, and port sampling information for the remaining open management areas: Lower Northern, Mid-Chatham Strait, Lower Chatham Strait, and Southern. Additional management actions may be taken as necessary, and the department will provide as much advance notice as possible for future area closures.

A vessel may leave gear in a stored condition for five days following the closure of a portion of Registration Area A, if all king crab pot doors are secured fully open and all bait and bait containers are removed [5 AAC 34.127(2)]. All gear must be removed from the East Central Management Area no later than 5:00 p.m., March 16, 2026.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C4726.

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

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<i>AWT</i>	<i>225-5111</i>	<i>772-3983</i>	<i>874-3215</i>	<i>747-3254</i>	<i>465-4000</i>	<i>766-2533</i>	<i>784-3255</i>