



Advisory Announcement

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA RED AND BLUE KING CRAB PERSONAL USE FISHERY

The Southeast Alaska personal use red (RKC) and blue king crab (BKC) fishery outside of the Juneau area (Section 11-A) is updated with the following information regarding the 2023/2024 season:

- **Peril Strait, Lynn Sisters, Seymour Canal, Pybus Bay, Excursion Inlet, and Gambier Bay will remain closed to RKC and BKC personal use fishing.**
- **Alaska residents fishing for RKC and BKC must have an Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2023/2024 Southeast Alaska Regional Personal Use King Crab Permit (excluding Section 11-A RKC and BKC) [5 AAC 77.664(a)].**
- **All areas open to personal use king crab fishing will have a daily bag and possession limit of one RKC or BKC as prescribed in regulation [5 AAC 77.664(b)].**

The permit is free and available through the department's online store at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/. Personal use fishermen must sign their permit to make it valid and have the permit, along with a current sport fishing license, in their possession while taking part in personal use king crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Regional personal use king crab permits are valid for RKC and BKC in all open areas except Section 11-A which is managed under a separate permit. Permits must be filled out each time king crab pots or ring nets are retrieved (or dive gear is used) whether king crab are harvested or not, before leaving the fishing area. Permit holders are required to report their harvest either online any time at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/> or by turning in the completed permit at the end of the season.

2022 Survey and Fishery Information:

Personal use RKC and BKC fisheries are closed in all areas of Southeast Alaska by regulation from April 1 through June 30 [5 AAC 77.664(c)(1)] each year to protect crab during the molting and mating season. From July 1 through March 31, open fishing periods for the personal use RKC and BKC fisheries may be adjusted by emergency order. The department conducts an annual RKC and BKC stock assessment survey in seven areas throughout Southeast Alaska, including: the Section 11-A, Lynn Sisters, Excursion Inlet, Pybus Bay, Gambier Bay, Seymour Canal, and Peril Strait. Surveys begin in late June/early July and conclude in August. Data from surveys are used to manage commercial and personal use RKC and BKC fisheries. The remaining waters of Southeast Alaska outside the areas surveyed are referred to as "non-surveyed" areas. Information and trends from the surveyed areas are used to infer management decisions for non-surveyed areas.

The 2023 Southeast Alaska RKC and BKC stock assessment survey will be completed in late August 2023. The department used 2022 RKC and BKC stock assessment survey results to set bag and possession limits and determine open areas for the RKC and BKC personal use fishery outside of Section 11-A. The RKC and BKC stock assessment survey results from 2022 indicate the following:

- The regionwide harvestable biomass of mature RKC and BKC is below 200,000 lbs.
- Stock health in Gambier Bay has improved from below average to moderate.
- Stock health in Lynn Sisters remains moderate.
- Stock health in Seymour Canal improved from poor to below average.
- Stock health in Peril Strait remains below average but has improved.
- Stock health in Pybus Bay remains below average, with mature male biomass levels a concern.

- Stock health in Excursion Inlet remains poor.
- All non-surveyed areas appear to have stocks that can withstand some level of harvest.

Juneau Area (Section 11-A):

Status of the RKC and BKC personal use fishery within Section 11-A will be addressed in a separate advisory announcement once the survey is complete in July. For more information on the RKC and BKC personal use fishery within Section 11-A please contact Zane Chapman at (907) 465-4274.

Closed Area Descriptions:

- **Peril Strait:** Section 13-C, waters of the district north of the latitude of Pogibshi Point at 57°30.50' N lat and west of a line from the southeasternmost tip of Point Hayes at 57°28.83' N lat, 134°50.33' W long, to the northernmost tip of Point Thatcher at 57°24.97' N lat, 134°50.00' W long (all waters of Peril Strait including Hoonah Sound, Ushk Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay, and contiguous waters west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher, and north of a line from Pogibshi Point due west to the Chichagof shoreline).
- **Lynn Sisters:** Waters north of a line from a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°06.50' W long, due east to a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°03.00' W long, and west of a line from a point at 58°27.00' N lat, 135°03.00' W long, to Point Whidbey including St. James Bay.
- **Seymour Canal:** Section 11-D, all waters of Seymour Canal north of 57°36.71' N lat.
- **Gambier Bay:** Waters north and west of a line from Point Gambier to 57°24.90' N lat, 133°53.00' W long.
- **Pybus Bay:** Waters north and west of a line from Point Pybus to the easternmost tip of San Juan Island to a point at 57°14.60' N lat, 134°07.30' W long.
- **Excursion Inlet:** Waters east of a line from a point at 58°22.57' N lat, 135°30.08' W long, south to a point at 58°19.28' N lat, 135°30.06' W long, and north of a line from a point at 58°19.28' N lat, 135°30.06' W long to a point at 58°16.13' N lat, 135°20.61' W long, including Excursion Inlet.

Refer to Figure 1 showing open and closed waters for personal use RKC and BKC fishing.

Additional Information:

A personal use fishing permit issued by the department is required to take king crab for each household; households may not be issued multiple permits of the same type per year. A permit holder or a household member listed on the permit must have the permit in possession when fishing. The fishing report section of your permit must be submitted online or returned to your ADF&G Regional Office before June 23, 2024, even if you did not fish. Report online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/PU/>.

Fishermen are reminded that male RKC and BKC must be seven inches or greater in width of shell to be retained [5 AAC 77.664(d)]. Male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

For the areas open to personal use king crab fishing outside of Section 11-A, **no more than 4 pots or 10 ring nets per vessel may be used for king and Tanner crab.** A pot used to take king crab must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot that are not less than six and one-quarter inches inside diameter. Each fisherman shall plainly and legibly inscribe the fisherman's first initial, last name, and home address on a keg or buoy attached to a pot. A keg or buoy attached to the pot must also be inscribed with the vessel name or the division of motor vehicles registration number (AK number) of the vessel used to operate the pot [5 AAC 77.010 and 5 AAC 77.664(h)].

For additional information visit the Southeast Alaska Personal Use King Crab Fishery website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreasoutheastkingCrab.regs>.

Please refer to 5 AAC 77.664 in the 2022-2023 Statewide Subsistence and Personal Use Fishing Regulations booklet for additional regulations regarding personal use RKC and BKC fishing, or view the regulations online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1523.

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

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Personal Use Red and Blue King Crab Areas in Registration Area A

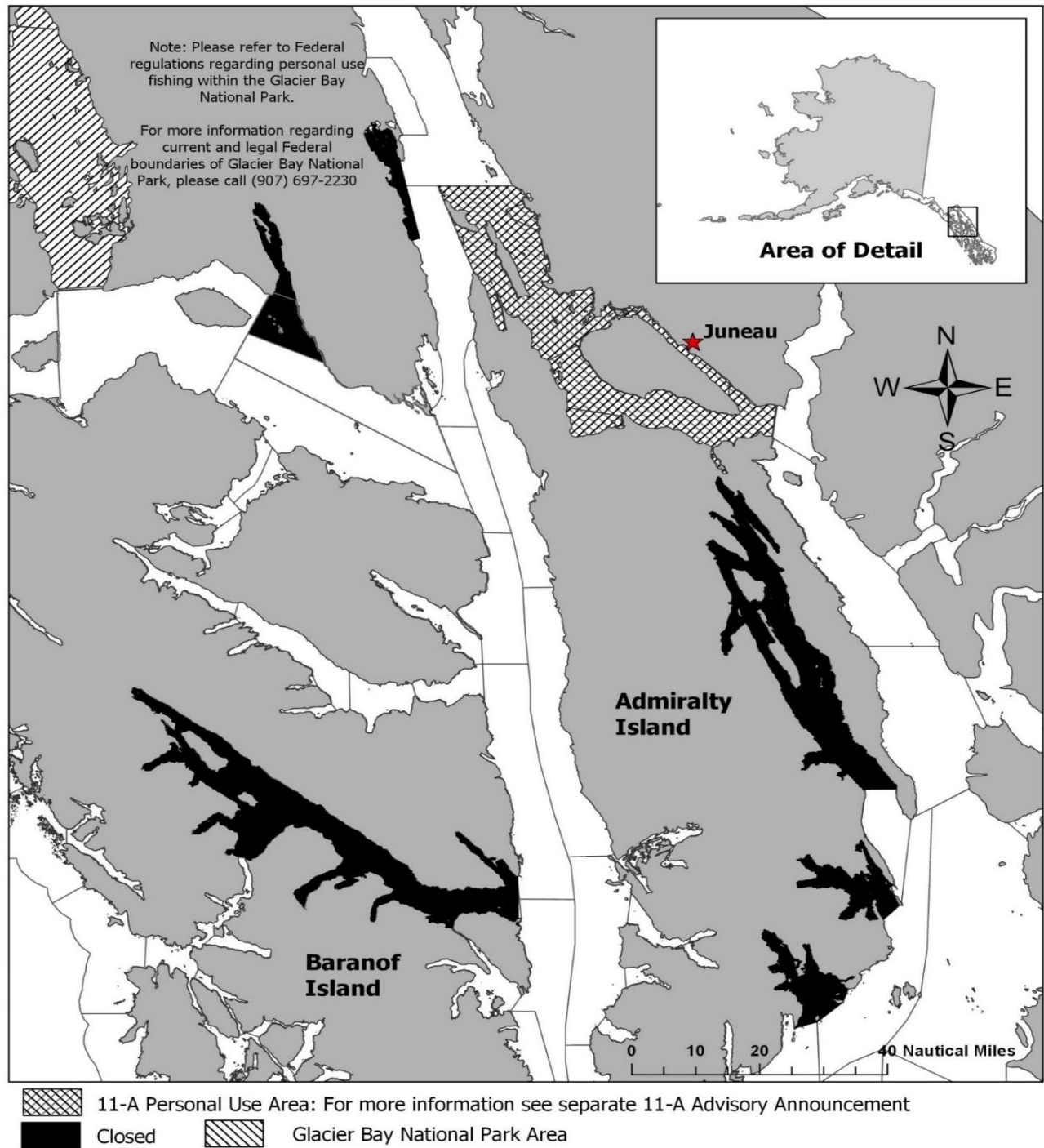


Figure 1. This map shows closed areas for the 2023/2024 RKC and BKC personal use fishery and is for reference purposes only. Please refer to text in this advisory announcement for legal descriptions of management area boundaries and other details.