



Fish & Game BULLETIN

Bristol Bay crab fishermen haul in \$50 million harvest

The Bristol Bay and Pribilof king crab fisheries opened Sept. 25, and the fishery closed in 11 days after a harvest of 122.3 million pounds worth more than \$50 million to the fishermen, according to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

All the effort concentrated on Bristol Bay where the number of vessels increased from 159 in 1986 to 235 this year, an increase of more than 50 percent. The number of catcher/processors was 21, a 75 percent increase over last year's levels.

Because of the increased effort and concern for vessel safety, the depart-

ment adopted an emergency regulation to allow fishery gear to remain on the grounds an additional five days following the closure of the fishery. The Pribilof fishery picked up immediately after the Oct. 6 closure of Bristol Bay. Catches to date are very poor, as predicted by the survey which was conducted this past summer.

The next major king crab fishery opening occurs in the Adak area. Last year nearly 12 million pounds of brown king crab were taken in this fishery, and the department anticipates a similar fishery this year.