

CRAB AREAS CLOSED

JUNEAU—The Adak and Western Aleutians king crab areas were closed by emergency order effective at noon on Dec. 6, the Department of Fish and Game announced recently.

Department biologists who have been monitoring the Adak fishery closely report an extremely low level of king crab abundance there.

The harvest from the major production stock for this area has fallen far short of the anticipated level and immediate action was required to conserve this resource, a department spokesman said.

Minor king crab stocks in areas adjacent to the major production areas present an impossible management situation. Therefore the entire Adak and Western Aleutian area was closed, the department said.

Department research programs in the area will continue and next year's recommended harvest level will be based on research data and on information obtained from analysis of this year's harvest.