

[Alaska Crab Fishery to open by the weekend](#)

Local News

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - On Thursday, U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Mark Begich (D-AK) applauded the N

Located in Alaska's Bristol Bay region, the fishery was set to open on October 15. Due to the government shut
[has](#) 80 boats employing 500 fishermen; approximately 50 of those boats are based in Seattle.

"This is great news for Pacific Northwest fishing jobs," said Cantwell. "Last week on Capitol Hill, C

"I'm pleased federal agencies are getting back to work to ensure the Bristol Bay Red King Crab Fishery can open as soon as possible," said Begich. "Senator Cantwell and I have made sure that expediting permits is a priority so that Alaskan fishermen can get to work. Consumers are eager to get Alaska king crab, some of the best seafood on earth, and Alaska fishermen want to fulfill this demand, earn a living wage for their families and keep the Alaska economy strong."

The senators sent a letter today

[urging](#) U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker to prioritize opening the fishery. In their letter, th

"Fishing families are eager to get to work,"

the senators wrote in the letter.

"Please help us minimize the economic impact this unnecessary shutdown has had on our coastal economics b

Last week, Captain Keith Colburn of the show "Deadliest Catch" testified before Cantwell and Begich du

"On behalf of all fishermen, I'm asking Congress to end the shutdown now," Colburn said. "I'm a s

Today's letter follows another letter the Senators sent to Secretary Pritzker on October 15

[highlighting](#) the importance of the fishery and the need to open the fishing season.

A July 2013 report

[presented](#) to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute found that Alaska's seafood industry directly support