

'Micro Algae' Technique Results in Greater Blue King Hatchery Survival

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

Scientists

in Seward working on techniques for hatchery rearing king crab have developed a method to boost survival rates among blue kings. Ben Daly, an Alaska Sea Grant research biologist, says he wasn't entirely surprised that micro algae worked so well.

-- (Crab 1 38
sec "There's been some
culture ... flushed out of the tank.")

What they
did was to flush the water from the tanks less often:

-- (Crab 2 22
sec "We sort of used this semi
... really high survival.")

Daly said
they were able to successfully rear red king crab without using micro alga:

-- (Crab 3 22
sec "And this is beneficial
in ... hatchery logistical standpoint.")

Once the
crab are out of the larval stage, Daly told KMXT they are much easier to rear
in the hatchery:

-- (Crab 4 35
sec "They tend to be more
hardy ... not quite as aggressive.")

The Alaska
King Crab Research, Rehabilitation and Biology program is a joint effort by
several agencies and organizations seeking to someday restock depleted Kodiak
Red King and Pribilof Blue King crab stocks.

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