

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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NORTON SOUND RED KING CRAB FISHERY AMENDED UPDATE

Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) will not be harvesting Community Development Quota during the winter season this year as previously announced. Please call Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation at 1-888-650-2477 or 907-443-2477 with any questions.

The Norton Sound winter commercial red king crab fishery will still open at noon on February 25. Anyone who wants to participate in the fishery as a permit holder or a crew member must have stopped subsistence crabbing by noon, February 11. The guideline harvest level for the winter commercial red king crab fishery is 12,048 pounds.

Before crabbing, permit holders must register with Fish & Game at the Nome office and receive their crab pot tags. Nome area crabbers with any questions about the fishery can call Fish & Game at 443-5167. Village residents can call 1-800-560-2271 to register and have their crab pot tags sent to them via local airlines.

A reminder to crabbers that although the legal size to keep male crabs is 4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, NSSP is only buying crabs that are 5 inches or greater and have all their legs and claws. Also, crabs with small or stubby legs will not be purchased. Please contact NSSP for more information.

Commercial permit holders need to be in possession of a catcher-seller permit and registered as a catcher-seller at the Nome Fish & Game office before they can sell crab to the public. A catcher-seller permit application can be obtained online or picked up at the Fish & Game office.

Any permit holder that is not registered as a catcher-seller can only sell crab to the buyer. NSSP is the only buyer that has registered for the fishery.