

Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Sam Rabung, Director

Headquarters Office  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)

## Advisory Announcement

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**CONTACT: Jim Menard**  
**Norton Sound Area Manager**  
**(907) 443-5167 (800) 560-2271**

### ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES DECISIONS ON NORTON SOUND CRAB PROPOSALS

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Anchorage from March 8-10, 2020.

At the meeting the department presented reports on crab fisheries and stock status. The board also heard public comments from Advisory Committee members and the general public.

Four proposals were submitted to the board by the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee and one individual regarding the commercial crab fishery in Norton Sound.

Proposals submitted regarding fisheries in the Norton Sound Section of the Northern District are listed below with the board's action.

Proposal 273 – Change the start of the winter commercial crab fishery from the earliest start date of January 15 to February 1. Proposal was amended to also close the commercial crab season east of 167 degrees W longitude for 2020. **Amended proposal passed; 6-1.** The closure will be in effect for the summer commercial crab season.

Proposal 274 – Limit the number of crab pot tags per permit holder in the winter commercial fishery. A commercial permit holder in the winter through the ice commercial crab fishery would not be able to receive replacement tags for any crab pots lost after 20 crab pot tags had been issued. **Proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 275 – Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after operating commercial Pacific cod pots in the Norton Sound Section within 14 days prior to the start of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery. Proposal was amended to allow a person or vessel to operate pots up to 7 days prior to the state of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery. **Amended proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 276 – Allow a person or vessel to operate commercial Pacific cod pots in Norton Sound within 14 days of the closure of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after participating in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery. Proposal was withdrawn by the sponsor because the department does have the ability to allow fishing with pots other than commercial king crab pots after the commercial red king crab fishery if the permit holder removes all crab pots and puts them in storage and invalidates the vessel or personal king crab registration by contacting the department. **No action taken.**