

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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2020 NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL HERRING BAIT FISHERY TO OPEN

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Herring were spotted south of Shaktoolik off the beach near Beason Slough on Monday by NSEDC biologists during an aerial survey. The herring quota is over 5,000 tons of herring and Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) is interested in buying 75 tons of herring bait. Because there is no concern with the amount of herring that NSSP intends to buy the department will open the commercial through June 30.

The Norton Sound commercial herring bait fishery will open at noon Tuesday, May 19. Leaving the herring bait fishery open continuously allows the buyer to direct the bulk of the fishing fleet to areas where harvest efficiency can be maximized.

To commercial fish in the herring fishery, permit holders must have a valid 2020 Norton Sound bait or sac roe commercial herring permit and an ADF&G vessel license. Permit holders also must have a valid government picture I.D.

Crew members must have a 2020 crew member license or current year state of Alaska commercial fishery permit. For example, a 2020 Norton Sound king crab or salmon permit can substitute as a crewmember license for a crewmember on a herring vessel.

Permit holders will need to check with NSSP at 624-3014 before fishing to make sure there is a market for their catch, and they must deliver their catch to the Unalakleet plant.

The ADF&G Unalakleet field office will not be open this season. Permit holders should contact the ADF&G office in Nome for information needs.

If you have any questions regarding the commercial herring bait fishery, please call the ADF&G Norton Sound Area office at 1-800-560-2271 or 443-5167.

Good Luck and Good Fishing.