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Advisory Announcement

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Norton Sound Commercial Red King Crab Fishery Guideline Harvest Level Set

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) met this week and finalized the legal male biomass (LMB), the total overfishing limit (OFL) and the total allowable biological catch (ABC) for Norton Sound red king crab. The LMB for red king crab is 3.93 million pounds.

The OFL was set at 628,000 pounds and the ABC was set at 380,000 pounds. The total OFL and total ABC include both retained and discarded catch. The retained portion of the ABC is 350,000 pounds.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) is set as a percentage of the LMB and must be kept below the ABC.

The department has set the harvest at 8% of the LMB yielding a total commercial GHL for red king crab of 314,400 pounds. This level of retained commercial harvest allows for a buffer of over 35,000 pounds before the retained ABC is exceeded.

By regulation, the GHL for the winter commercial red king crab fishery is 8% of the total commercial GHL and will be 25,152 pounds.

At present there are 4 permit holders and 1 buyer registered for the winter commercial crab fishery, of which 3 of the 4 permit holders have also registered as catcher-sellers.

Commercial crab permit holders must register at the Fish & Game office in Nome to receive crab pot tags before crabbing. Village residents can call 1-800-560-2271 to register and crab pot tags will be sent via local airlines.

Catcher-seller application forms can be picked at the Nome Fish & Game office or can be obtained online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.main

Those assisting a commercial permit holder must be in possession of a 2021 commercial crewmember license or a 2021 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit for any fishery can substitute. Crewmember licenses are available at the Nome Fish & Game office or can be bought online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/

Good Luck, Good Crabbing and Be Safe Out There.