

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
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2021 NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL HERRING BAIT FISHERY TO OPEN

The 2021 quota is over 5,000 tons of herring and Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) is interested in buying 25 tons of herring bait. Herring have now been spotted in southern Norton Sound and the buyer has requested the department to open the herring fishery to commercial harvest. Because there is no concern with the amount that NSSP intends to buy the department will open the commercial fishing effective at 8 a.m. May 27 through June 30.

Leaving the herring bait fishery open continuously allows the buyer to direct the fishing fleet to areas where harvest efficiency can be maximized.

To commercial fish in the herring fishery, permit holders must have a valid 2021 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 2021 crew member license or current year state of Alaska commercial fishery permit. For example, a 2021 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 907-624-3014 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 is open and permit holders can contact the ADF&G office at 907-624-3921 or the Nome office at 1-800-560-2271 or 443-5167 for information needs.

Good Luck and Good Fishing.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.