

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



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:

Joyce Soong, Fishery Biologist I
Phone: (907) 443-8197
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome
PO Box 1148
Nome, AK 99762
Date Issued: 5/10/12
Time: 3:30PM

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NORTON SOUND WINTER COMMERCIAL and
SUBSISTENCE KING CRAB FISHERMEN**

The 2011-2012 Norton Sound winter commercial king crab fishing season will end at noon, Tuesday, May 15. Catcher-sellers must turn in all fish tickets by Tuesday, May 22.

For subsistence fishermen, there is no closed season for the taking of king crab in Norton Sound but a **subsistence permit is required**. Separate permits are required for winter crabbing (through the ice) and summer (open water). Permits issued for the 2011-2012 winter subsistence crab fishery are valid through the end of May, and **must be turned in the first week of June**. The summer season begins on June 1 for subsistence crabbing and requires a summer permit. Subsistence permits are free.

Subsistence permits can be picked up at the Nome office, or mailed out to village residents. If a sport fish license is used to fish for crab a harvest record form must be picked up at the Nome office before crabbing. Sport fish license holders can only keep 6 male crabs that are 4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches or larger each day. Subsistence crab permit holders can keep all crabs caught.

For subsistence fishermen, please turn in tagged crabs that are harvested. Bring the tagged crab or the intact shell with the tag to the Fish & Game office in Nome. The crab will be returned to the fisherman after size data is recorded. For commercial fishermen, please return all sublegal crabs to the sea, leaving any tags on. A tag reward will be given out for tags turned in to ADF&G along with the intact shell and capture location.

Congratulations to Norton Sound fishermen on one of the best winter crab seasons in history. The commercial catch so far this season of over 8,500 crabs is second only to the first winter commercial season in 1977-78 when 9,625 crabs were caught. The number of winter subsistence crab permits issued to date is 202 which ranks fourth all-time and is the highest number of permits issued since 1985.

- end-