

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: June 6, 2023***

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**2023 NORTON SOUND SUMMER COMMERCIAL KING CRAB FISHERY TO OPEN**

The Norton Sound king crab summer open access commercial fishery will open at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 21. Anyone who is now subsistence crabbing and plans to participate in this year's summer commercial crab fishery must stop subsistence crabbing and have all pots removed from the water by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 14, and return their subsistence permit to Fish & Game or report their catch online before starting commercial operations.

Norton Sound Seafood Products has registered as a buyer for the summer commercial crab season. Commercial fishermen should ensure that they have a market prior to beginning operations. Sea ice has remained in Norton Sound longer than expected and fishermen should take extreme care to ensure that gear is safe from erratic ice flows and ice conditions. Sea ice hazards are expected to ease in the coming weeks but may still pose a threat to gear and fishermen should use caution.

During the 2023 winter commercial fishery 8 permit holders caught 11,115 pounds of red king crab. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the winter commercial fishery was 31,400 pounds. The total Norton Sound red king crab GHL for the winter and summer commercial fisheries is 392,500 pounds and of that amount, 7.5% is reserved for the CDQ fishery. The 29,438 pounds reserved for the CDQ fishery combined with the winter commercial catch is 40,553 pounds resulting in 351,947 pounds available in the summer open access commercial fishery.

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-sellers must also register before selling crab.

Catcher-seller application forms can be picked up at the Nome Fish & Game office or can be obtained online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.sellers](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.sellers)

When crabbing, permit holders must be in possession of their 2023 Norton Sound king crab commercial permit and a government issued ID card, or driver's license. Those assisting a commercial permit holder must be in possession of a 2023 commercial crewmember license, or a 2023 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/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/)

For further information please contact the Nome office at 907-443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

Be safe out there and good luck.