

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
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Nome ADF&G
PO Box 1148
Nome AK 99762
Date Issued: 8/8/2012
Time: 4:00 p.m.

NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL KING CRAB FISHERY TO CLOSE

The commercial open access king crab fishery in Norton Sound will close at 6:00PM Saturday, August 11. All pot gear must have doors open and bait containers removed by 6:00PM Saturday, August 11. All crab must be delivered by 6:00PM Sunday, August 12 and permit holders not registered to fish in the CDQ fishery must pull all their pots out of the water by Friday, August 17. In the event of mechanical difficulties and another vessel is needed to pull your pots, please notify Jim Menard in the ADF&G office in advance.

Through noon on August 8 the reported harvest in the Norton Sound open access fishery was approximately 367,000 pounds of red king crab. The Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the 2012 summer open access fishery is 430,540 pounds of red king crab. The weather is forecasted to be mild the rest of the week and the catch rate for the fleet as a whole has remained consistently high. Almost all registered crab vessels are currently fishing and it is expected that the GHL will be reached by this weekend.

Commercial crabbers are reminded that they may only keep tagged crab in their catch if they are legal in size. If you find a sublegal, tagged crab, record the tag number and location and bring the information to the ADF&G office to obtain a tag reward cup or hat. To receive a reward for a legal crab the crab must be brought to ADF&G personnel in the office or at the seafood plant for measurement and examination.

For further information please contact the Nome office at 907-443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271 or the Unalakleet office at 907-624-3921.

Good Luck, Good Crabbing and Safe Travels.

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