

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
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Norton Sound Area Office
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Nome, AK, 99762
Date Issued: May 18, 2015
Time: 3:30 p.m.

NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL HERRING BAIT FISHERY OPENS

At the request of the buyer, the department will open the commercial herring bait fishery to set gillnets effective 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 18 until further notice. NSEDC has established a bait herring market quota of approximately 70 tons of bait herring this season. Processing and buying operations will be limited to Norton Sound Seafood Products processing plant in Unalakleet.

The run of herring in Norton Sound is occurring about 10 days earlier than expected this season. Leaving the fishery open continuously allows the buyer to direct the bulk of the fishing fleet to areas where harvest efficiency can be maximized. To commercial fish for bait herring, permit holders must have a valid 2015 bait or sac roe herring permit. Crew members must have a 20154 crew member license or current year state of Alaska commercial fishery permit. For example, a 2015 Norton Sound king crab or salmon permit can substitute as a crewmember license if one intends to crew on a herring vessel. Permit holders should be in contact with Norton Sound Seafood Products once the fishery is underway to ensure there is a market for their catch.

The ADF&G Unalakleet field office is not open and a test fishery crew will not be conducting operations this season. Permit holders should contact the Nome ADF&G office for information needs.

If you have any questions regarding the commercial bait herring fishery, please call the ADF&G Nome Area office at 1-800-560-2271 or 443-5167. Good Luck and Good Fishing.

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