

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



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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: 8/3/2011
Time: 10:30 a.m.

RECORD EX-VESSEL VALUE IN NORTON SOUND RED KING CRAB FISHERY

Record prices paid for Norton Sound red king crab resulted in the 2011 Norton Sound summer king crab fishery setting a record ex-vessel value. Norton Sound permit holders harvested nearly 401,000 pounds of red king crab for a record payout of just over 2 million dollars.

In 2011 Norton Sound red king crab prices paid to fishermen ranged from \$5.04 to \$5.35 per pound. Although the record harvest for Norton Sound red king crab of nearly 3 million pounds occurred in 1979 the price paid then was only 75 cents per pound.

The Norton Sound summer commercial crab season lasted 33 days and was the shortest season since the fishery went super-exclusive in 1994, effectively making it a local small boat fishery. There were 26 permit holders registered for the commercial crab fishery with 24 permit holders making deliveries. The commercial harvest was 10.1% of the estimated legal male biomass of 3.97 million pounds and blew past the 9% guideline harvest level of 358,000 pounds in the last few days of the fishery.

Congratulations to Norton Sound permit holders and crew members, and to the seafood workers who were able to keep the processing line moving as they set record daily production levels at the Nome plant in 2011.