

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Contact:  
Jim Menard, Area Manager  
Scott Kent, Assistant Area Manager  
Phone: (907) 443-5167  
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome ADF&G  
PO Box 1148  
Nome AK 99762  
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#### **NORTON SOUND OPEN ACCESS CRAB FISHERY TO CLOSE AND CDQ TO OPEN**

The red king crab guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Norton Sound winter through the ice commercial fishery is 41,376 pounds. To date, 21 commercial permit holders have made at least one delivery during the open access crab fishery and through Tuesday morning over 38,000 pounds have been harvested and the GHL is projected to be reached by Thursday.

The Norton Sound commercial red king crab fishery will close at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Permit holders will have until 9 p.m. Thursday, March 24 to deliver crab to the buyers.

The CDQ king crab fishery will open at 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 23. This will enable those who are registered to fish the CDQ crab fishery to continue fishing. Those who are not registered in the CDQ fishery must remove bait containers from crab pots and have crab pot doors secured open by 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24.

The CDQ allocation is 39,190 pounds of red king crab. Crabbers interested in participating in the CDQ fishery will need to register their CDQ cards with the department. Village residents can call the Fish & Game office to register. A reminder to permit holders that Monday, March 28, is a state holiday and the Fish & Game office will be closed.

Commercial fishing for CDQ crab is open to all residents 18 years or older of NSEDC's 15 member communities who qualify to obtain a CDQ gear permit card and who sign the 2016 NSEDC Norton Sound Red King Crab Fisherman's Agreement and NSEDC Residency Verification forms. Interested fishermen should contact NSEDC at 443-2477 if they have questions about the process of becoming eligible to fish for CDQ red king crab.

Permit holders must have their permit card in possession and be present any time pot gear is being operated, and can only be assisted by licensed crew members. Crewmembers cannot deploy or operate gear on their own. For further information please contact the Nome office at 907-443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

Good Luck and Good Crabbing!