

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
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Nome ADF&G
PO Box 1148
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Time: 9:00 a.m.

NORTON SOUND RED KING CRAB CDQ FISHERY TO CLOSE APRIL 21

The 2016 red king crab commercial Community Development Quota (CDQ) allocation for Norton Sound is 38,790 pounds. Including deliveries made through April 17, over 29,300 pounds, or 75% of the CDQ red king crab allocation has been harvested by 24 registered permit holders. Approximately 9,400 pounds of the allocation remain. Over the past week, the daily red king crab harvest is averaging over 1,000 pounds. After consulting with Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation the department will close the Norton Sound winter commercial red king crab CDQ fishery effective 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21. Fishermen will have until 9:00 p.m. Thursday, April, 21 to deliver their crab catch to the NSSP fish plant in Nome. Effective 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21, all commercial crab gear must be removed from the water, or have doors secured open with bait containers removed. All commercial pot gear must be removed from the sea ice effective midnight, Tuesday evening, April 26. Any commercial crab permit holder or crew member intending to subsistence fish for king crab must wait at least two weeks from the closure date to fish.

This closure date and time is based on recent catch rates. However, there is the possibility delivery rates could increase in the coming days. NSEDC, the quota owner, has the authority to implement additional management measures to ensure the CDQ allocation is not exceeded, and therefore may restrict fishing prior to the ADF&G closure if desired. Fishermen are therefore strongly encouraged to remain in regular contact with NSEDC/NSSP staff as the fishery draws to a close.

Fishermen are encouraged to closely monitor ice conditions and be prepared to remove gear if conditions or weather suggests that the crabbing may become unsafe or gear loss is imminent.

Congratulations to winter commercial crab fishermen and Norton Sound Seafoods on a safe and successful inaugural winter CDQ crab season. For further information please contact the Nome ADF&G office at 907-443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271, or Norton Sound Seafood Products in Nome at 443-2304.

Good Luck and Good Crabbing and Be Safe Out There!