

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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PO Box 1148
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NORTON SOUND SUMMER RED KING CRAB COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO OPEN

An emergency order has been issued to open the Norton Sound summer red king crab fishery at 12, noon, Monday, June 27. The red king crab guideline harvest level (GHL) for the summer commercial fishery is 440,137 pounds.

In January the department set the GHL for the winter and summer commercial fisheries at 12% of the estimated red king legal male biomass. The 12% GHL allows a commercial harvest of 517,200 pounds of red king crab. Of that amount 7.5% is reserved for the CDQ fishery. For the first time in history NSEDC decided to take the CDQ portion of the harvest during the winter and of the 38,790 pounds reserved for the CDQ fishery only 3,583 pounds remains to be harvested. The winter allocation is 8% and has been taken.

Permit holders are reminded to register with the department before fishing. Through Friday afternoon, 25 permit holders have registered. Last year 36 permit holders fished.

When crabbing, permit holders must be in possession of their 2016 Norton Sound red king crab commercial permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. Crew members assisting permit holders must be in possession of a 2016 commercial crew member's license, or a 2016 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit for any fishery can substitute for a crew member's license. For example, a 2016 State of Alaska commercial salmon permit can substitute for a crew member's license.

Permit holders must be present any time commercial 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 and Be Safe Out There!