

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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WINTER COMMERCIAL RED KING CRAB GHIL PROJECTED TO BE REACHED AND CDQ FISHERY TO OPEN

The red king crab guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Norton Sound winter through the ice commercial fishery is 39,744 pounds. 35 (out of 57 registered) commercial permit holders have made at least one delivery during the commercial crab fishery and through last night over 27,600 pounds have been harvested.

Based on current catch rates and good weather forecast, and barring any unforeseen ice or wind conditions, the GHL is projected to be reached by Thursday, March 2. Permit holders, **including all catcher-sellers**, will have until 9 p.m. Thursday, March 2, to deliver crab to buyers. Crabbers not registered for the CDQ fishery must remove bait containers from crab pots and have crab pot doors secured open by 4 p.m. Thursday, March 2.

The CDQ allocation is up to 37,260 pounds of red king crab. Half of the CDQ allocation belongs to NSEDC, who is also working to obtain the remaining quota for its resident fishermen. Under NSEDC's policies, commercial fishing for CDQ crab is open to any fisherman, 18 years or older, who qualifies as a Norton Sound resident under NSEDC's residency policy, can obtain a CDQ gear permit card, and who signs the 2017 NSEDC Norton Sound Red King Crab Fisherman's Agreement and NSEDC Residency Verification forms. Interested fishermen should contact Scott or Simon with NSEDC at 443-2477 if they have questions about the process of becoming eligible to fish for CDQ red king crab.

The CDQ fishery opens today, Tuesday, February 28 at 12 noon, to allow those crabbers who are registered to fish the CDQ crab fishery to continue fishing past Thursday, March 2. Crabbers interested in participating in the CDQ fishery **must** register their CDQ cards with ADF&G. Village residents can call the ADF&G office to register. A reminder to permit holders that those who wish to fish the CDQ fishery but who have not yet received their card in the mail may apply for an Immediate Fishing Permit, which costs \$80 payable to Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

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!