

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Nome ADF&G
PO Box 1148
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Date Issued: 3/20/2017
Time: 5:00 p.m.

NORTON SOUND RED KING CRAB CDQ FISHERY TO CLOSE MARCH 22

The 2017 red king crab commercial Community Development Quota (CDQ) allocation for Norton Sound is up to 37,260 pounds. Including deliveries made through March 19, over 26,400 pounds, or 71% of the CDQ red king crab allocation has been harvested by 42 registered permit holders. Less than 11,000 pounds of the allocation remain. Over the last few days, daily deliveries have increased, with almost 3,500 pounds brought in yesterday.

After consulting with Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), ADF&G will close the Norton Sound winter commercial red king crab CDQ fishery effective 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 22. Fishermen will have until 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, to deliver their crab catch to the Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) fish plant in Nome. Effective 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, 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, Monday evening, March 27. 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 still increase. NSEDC, the quota owner, has the authority to implement additional management measures to ensure the CDQ allocation is not exceeded, and thus 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.

Crabbers are reminded that if they are unable to get to their gear due to unsafe conditions, they will **not** be penalized for having their pots baited past the fishery closure date. Any crab harvested after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22 will have to be returned to the water.

Any commercial harvest allocation not taken during the winter commercial fishery will be added to the summer commercial fishery allocation.

For further information, please contact Joyce at the Nome ADF&G office at 907-443-8197 or 1-800-560-2271; or Simon with NSEDC at 443-2477 or (888) 650-2477; or NSSP in Nome at 443-2304.

Good Luck, Good Crabbing and Be Safe Out There!