

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL & CDQ RED KING CRAB FISHERY OPENS MARCH 3

The Norton Sound winter commercial and Community Development Quota (CDQ) red king crab fishery will open at noon on March 3. Anyone who wants to participate in either fishery as a permit holder or a crew member must stop subsistence crabbing by noon, February 17.

The guideline harvest level for the winter commercial red king crab fishery is 25,553 pounds and the guideline harvest level for the CDQ red king crab fishery is 23,956 pounds.

To qualify to crab in the CDQ fishery, individuals must contact Norton Sound Seafood Products to be placed on their eligibility list and then apply for a CDQ permit from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

Before crabbing, permit holders must register with Fish & Game at the Nome office and receive their crab pot tags. Nome area crabbers with any questions about the fishery can call Fish & Game at 443-5167. Village residents can call 1-800-560-2271 to register and have their crab pot tags sent to them via local airlines.

Crabbers need to check with Norton Sound Seafood Products in Nome and/or Unalakleet to make sure they are buying on the day you intend to deliver crab. The buyer may choose to stop buying crab during cold weather days to improve product quality or may choose to only buy crab from CDQ permit holders. A reminder to crabbers that although the legal size to keep male crabs is 4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, Norton Sound Seafood Products is only buying crabs that are 5 inches or greater and have all their legs and claws, also crabs with small or stubby legs will not be purchased. Please contact Norton Sound Seafood Products for more information.

Commercial permit holders need to be in possession of a catcher-seller permit and registered as a catcher-seller at the Nome Fish & Game office before they can sell crab to the public. A catcher-seller permit application can be obtained online or picked up at the Fish & Game office.

Any permit holder that is not registered as a catcher-seller can only sell crab to the buyer. At this time Norton Sound Seafood Products is the only buyer to register for the fishery.