

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Manager
Justin Leon, Assistant Area Manager
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-6549

Nome ADF&G
PO Box 1148
Nome AK 99762
Date Issued: 4/26/2018
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Norton Sound commercial red king crab fishery will close on the evening of April 30

The Norton Sound winter commercial red king crab fishery will close on April 30 at midnight and all crab pots must be un-baited and doors secured open by Monday evening. Crab must be delivered to the fish plant by May 1. All catcher-sellers must have their fish tickets turned into Fish & Game by May 8.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the CDQ red king crab fishery of nearly 24,000 pounds was reached during the winter season. To date, less than 5,000 pounds have been taken in the winter commercial red king crab fishery and the 20,000 plus pounds remaining on the commercial winter GHL will be added to the summer commercial red king crab GHL of nearly 270,000 pounds.

Registration for the summer commercial red king crab fishery will begin in June at the Nome Fish & Game office and the fishery is expected to begin in late June or early July. Commercial crabbers can use the same crab pot tags in the summer fishery that were issued for the winter fishery, but crabbers must still register for the summer fishery.

Norton Sound subsistence crabbing remains open 365 days a year. Subsistence crab permits are required and available at the Fish & Game office in Nome or can be mailed out to village residents. Please have your Alaska driver's license or i.d. number when calling for a permit. Subsistence permits are free and all Alaska resident households qualify for a permit. The winter subsistence crab permit is valid through May 31 and a summer subsistence crab permit is valid from June 1 through November 30.

Crabbers with questions about the winter or summer crab fisheries can call Fish & Game at 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.