

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Joyce Soong, Fishery Biologist
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-6549

Nome ADF&G
PO Box 1148
Nome AK 99762
Date Issued: 7/12/2018
Time: 1:00 p.m.

NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL CRABBERS ON 24-HOUR CLOSURE NOTICE

As of today, over 75% of the summer crab guideline harvest level (GHL) has been reported harvested. CPUE for the fleet was as high as 18 crabs per pot earlier this week, and pounds per landing has averaged almost 1,600 pounds. Thirty-four crabbers currently have pots fishing. Less than 70,000 pounds remain of the GHL.

Due to weather variability impacting the harvest rate and to allow for maximum fishing opportunity, the department currently has no closure date set. However, crabbers are put on a minimum of 24-hour closure notice. The earliest closure would be Sunday, but the department may extend fishery beyond that date.

This past Tuesday a new buoy was deployed 1½ miles offshore from the Nome jetty with funding provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers working with Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The buoy measures wave height, wave direction, wave period, service current and sea surface temperature. The buoy is being operated and maintained by the Alaska Ocean Observing System and Port of Nome. Mariners can access the data at <http://ndbc.noaa.gov> or the NWS Marine Weather Channel. Also, there is a link to the data display at the City of Nome website www.nomealaska.org. The buoy will emit a yellow color Coast Guard compliant flashing light.

For further information please contact the Nome office at 907-443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

Once again, the department is holding off announcing the commercial crab closure in anticipation of inclement weather preventing crabbers from reaching their gear. However, the fleet is now on 24-hour closure notice with the earliest possible closure occurring on Sunday.

Be safe out there and best of luck crabbing.

-end-