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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: February 18, 2022***

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### **Norton Sound Commercial Red King Crab Fishery Guideline Harvest Level Set**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) met February 9, 2022 and adopted overfishing limit (OFL) and allowable biological catch (ABC) for Norton Sound red king crab.

The total catch OFL was set at 670,000 pounds and the ABC was set at 400,000 pounds. The OFL and ABC include both retained and discarded catch. The retained portion of the ABC is 370,000 pounds. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates legal male biomass (LMB) to be 4.27 million pounds.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) is set as a percentage of the LMB and must be kept below the ABC.

The department has set the harvest at 8% of the LMB yielding a total commercial GHL for red king crab of 341,600 pounds. This level of retained commercial harvest allows for a buffer of over 28,000 pounds before the retained ABC is exceeded.

By regulation, the GHL for the winter commercial red king crab fishery is 8% of the total commercial GHL and will be 27,328 pounds.

At present there are 8 permit holders registered for the winter commercial crab fishery. There is no registered buyer yet for the winter commercial crab fishery. Permit holders can sell crab with a catcher-seller code plate or as a direct marketer.

Commercial crab permit holders must register at the Fish & Game office in Nome to receive crab pot tags before crabbing. Village residents can call 1-800-560-2271 to register and crab pot tags will be sent via local airlines.

Catcher-seller application forms can be picked at the Nome Fish & Game office or can be obtained online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.main)

Those assisting a commercial permit holder must be in possession of a 2022 commercial crewmember license or a 2022 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit for any fishery can substitute. Crewmember licenses are available at the Nome Fish & Game office or can be bought online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/)

Good Luck, Good Crabbing and Be Safe Out There.