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## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: November 15, 2020*

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### **2023 Norton Sound Winter and Summer Commercial Crab Season Summaries**

Norton Sound Section (Q3) consists of all waters in Statistical Area Q north of the latitude of Cape Romanzof (61° 49' N latitude), east of the International Dateline, and south of latitude 66° N (Figure 1).

Starting in 2016, both winter and summer commercial fisheries were combined under one red king crab harvest strategy. Legal male biomass (LMB) was estimated to be 4.36 million pounds in 2023 based on results from the 2022 summer fishery and previous trawl surveys. By regulation, a harvest rate of up to 15% is allowed when the LMB exceeds 3.0 million pounds. Additionally, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council had set an allowable biological catch (ABC) of 480,000 pounds for 2023, which includes: the winter and summer commercial harvests, winter and summer subsistence harvests, and incidental mortality of non-target crab discards. To not exceed the recommended ABC, the department applied a harvest rate of 9.0% to the LMB for the commercial red king crab fishery, yielding a total guideline harvest level (GHL) of 392,500 pounds. By regulation 8% of the GHL is allocated to the winter commercial fishery resulting in a 31,400-pound allocation. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery is allocated 7.5% resulting in a 29,438-pound allocation. Any remaining winter commercial GHL not taken during the winter fishery is added to the summer commercial GHL.

### **Winter Fishery**

#### **Open Access Fishery**

Traditionally, winter commercial harvest occurs within 15 miles of Nome, excluding closed waters roughly 1 mile west to 3 miles east of Nome and extending out to approximately 3.5 miles offshore (Figure 1). Starting in 2010, harvests have occurred in eastern and southern Norton Sound. Fisherman generally sell directly to residents or send whole, live crab to non-local markets such as Anchorage and Korea.

Pot limits and pot tag requirements were implemented starting with the 2017 season and commercial permit holders are limited to 20 pots with each pot having a current-year pot tag attached. Regulations passed at the 2020 Board of Fish (BOF) meeting amended the previous winter commercial start date of January 15 to February 1<sup>st</sup> with a closure date of April 30<sup>th</sup> and prohibited fisherman from obtaining replacement tags for lost pots.

#### **Harvest Summary**

The 2023 winter open access fishery opened by regulation on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> with 9 fishermen registering as catcher-sellers. Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) did not buy king crab during the winter season in 2023 and has not purchased winter caught commercial crab since the 2019 season. Of the 9 fisherman that registered, 8 set pots with a total of 90 landings made. The lack of a Nome-based buyer led to low commercial fishing effort in southern and eastern Norton Sound. Stable winter-long sea ice conditions resulted in no pots

reported lost in the winter commercial fishery. All harvests made by Nome based crabbers occurred in a single statistical area: 656430 (Figure 2), which is approximately 5 miles West of Nome, just outside the subsistence harvest area. Harvest slowed throughout the season until the fishery closed by regulation on April 30<sup>th</sup>, with 48% of harvest taking place in February, 34% in March and 18% in April. Based on fish tickets that record the number and weight of each commercial delivery just under a third of the winter open access quota was harvested; 10,013 pounds (3,580 crabs), with an overall catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 5 crab/pot and average weight of 2.8 lbs/crab. This was the best winter commercial harvest since 2018 (Table 1). The average price of crab was \$8.84/lb, the highest paid in the Norton Sound winter king crab fishery, bringing the total exvessel value to \$84,815. However, this is only 14% of the peak value of \$617,400 in 2015.

## **SUMMER FISHERY**

### **Open Access Fishery**

The 2023 open access summer commercial crab fishery opened by emergency order at noon on June 21, with NSSP registered to buy crab and 2 fishermen registered as a catcher-sellers. The season can start as early as June 15 but was delayed till June 21 this year based on sea ice concentrations that had not yet dissipated enough in early June to access most of the fishing grounds. NSSP operated a seafood processing plant in Nome with 3 tenders operating in eastern Norton Sound. Once the season was under way, NSSP bought crab continuously until July 19<sup>th</sup>, when the season closed by emergency order.

Between the first delivery on June 23 and final delivery on July 19, 25 vessels and 24 permit holders made 142 landings totaling 387,031 pounds (137,110 crab), which was the highest since 2017 (Table 3). Of the total open access harvest, 2,292 pounds were reported as deadloss and 1,785 pounds were reported as retained and not sold. The 2023 season length was 29 days, 11 days shorter than 2022 and average weight was 2.8 lbs/crab.

Average daily CPUE was the highest on record at 28 crab/pot, surpassing 2022's previous record of 24 crab/pot since the fishery transitioned to a super exclusive area in 1994 (Table 3).

### **CDQ Fishery**

The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) divide the CDQ allocation of 7.5% of the total GHL. Only fishermen designated by these two CDQ groups can participate in this portion of the king crab fishery. Fishermen are required to have a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) CDQ king crab permit and to register with ADF&G before they make their first delivery. Fishermen operate under authority of the CDQ group and each CDQ group decides how their crab quota is harvested. In 2023, as in the previous 16 years, YDFDA transferred their quota to NSEDC.

From 2016 to 2018, the CDQ fishery was prosecuted during the winter season, but in 2019, NSSP reverted to purchasing CDQ crab only in the summer season. In 2023, the CDQ fishery was opened July 6<sup>th</sup>, but the first landing was not made until July 11<sup>th</sup>. From then until the last landing on July 17<sup>th</sup>, the 7 CDQ-registered crabbers harvested the entire CDQ allocation of 29,438 pounds (10,169 crab). Of the CDQ harvest, 0 pounds were reported as deadloss.

### **Harvest Areas and Sampling**

There were 8 statistical areas fished during the summer season. The top harvest and effort (58%) came from statistical area 646401 southeast of Nome. The next highest harvests came from statistical area 636401 which is southwest of Golovin Bay in eastern Norton Sound (27%) (Figure 3).

Carapace length (CL) measurements and shell ages were collected from 2,466 commercially caught crab during the summer season, 120% of the sampling goal. Since the summer of 2002, NSEDC has operated a seafood processing plant in Nome, and in 2023, 100% of sampling data was collected from this plant, either as crabbers

offloaded their catch or from holding tanks. Carapace age was classified as new, old, or very old. Male new-shell crab made up 98% of the total legal crab sampled.

## HARVEST SUMMARY

The 2023 summer crab season opened June 21 for both the open access and CDQ fisheries in the Norton Sound Section with a combined GHL of 381,385 pounds of crab, including the unharvested portion of the winter open access quota. A total of 24 vessels and 31 permit-holders registered to fish during the summer crab season, including 7 crabbers that fished both open access and CDQ fisheries (Table 3). The total summer harvest from fish ticket reports was 416,469 pounds (147,279 crab), 9% over the combined summer quota. Catch exceeded the quota partly due to 2023 having one of the highest CPUE's since transitioning to a super exclusive fishery in 1994. The average price paid for red king crab was \$6.50/lb, which is almost half of 2022's average price of \$12/lb. The total exvessel value of the summer commercial harvest, including CDQ was \$2.684 million, a little over a million dollars less than 2022 (Table 2).

Table 1.—Historical winter commercial red king crab fishery catch statistics and economic performance, Norton Sound Section, Eastern Bering Sea, 1978-2023.

Commercial	Permits	Pot	Average	Exvessel	Fishery	Season
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Year	harvest (lbs) a	fished	Landings	pulls	CPUE	weight (lb)	price/lb	value (\$)	dates <sup>b</sup>
1978	25,025	37	c	c	c	c	0.90	28,800	1/01-4/30
1979	575	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	1/01-4/30
1980	57	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	1/01-4/30
1981	0	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	1/01-4/30
1982	44	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	1/01-4/30
1983	1,427	5	c	c	c	c	c	c	1/01-4/30
1984	2,226	8	c	c	c	c	c	c	1/01-4/30
1985 <sup>c</sup>	3,042	10	106	103	11	2.6	5.56 <sup>d</sup>	6,494 <sup>d</sup>	1/01-4/30
1986 <sup>c</sup>	5,015	6	64	c	c	2.3	5.40 <sup>d</sup>	11,707 <sup>d</sup>	11/15-5/15
1987	2,590	7	51	55	19	2.5	2.60	6,734	11/15-5/15
1988	980	10	56	148	3	2.3	2.33	2,283	11/15-5/15
1989 <sup>c</sup>	1,045	5	59	c	c	c	5.40 <sup>d</sup>	2,210 <sup>d</sup>	11/15-5/15
1990 <sup>c</sup>	9,792	12	199	257	14	2.8	5.33 <sup>d</sup>	19,327 <sup>d</sup>	11/15-5/15
1991 <sup>c</sup>	10,064	11	187	609	6	2.7	5.00 <sup>d</sup>	19,000 <sup>d</sup>	11/15-5/15
1992	21,177	13	287	1,823	4	2.8	3.60	76,283	11/15-5/15
1993 <sup>c</sup>	4,926	8	66	c	c	2.8	2.84 <sup>c</sup>	14,000 <sup>d</sup>	11/15-5/15
1994	17,214	25	183	1,018	6	3.0	3.01	51,709	11/15-5/15
1995	21,813	42	345	3,302	2	2.9	3.09	66,190	11/15-5/15
1996	5,064	9	68	292	7	2.5	3.16	14,838	11/15-5/15
1997	<sup>e</sup>	2	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	2.81	<sup>e</sup>	11/15-5/15
1998	2,349	5	31	749	1	2.4	3.57	8,168	11/15-5/15
1999	7,041	5	61	425	6	2.6	3.69	24,777	11/15-5/15
2000	7,894	10	90	1,230	2	2.6	3.72	29,300	11/15-5/15
2001	2,943	3	21	534	2	2.7	3.60	10,582	11/15-5/15
2002	6,860	11	68	1,247	2	2.7	3.53	22,682	11/15-5/15
2003	16,827	13	128	1,960	3	2.5	3.52	57,577	11/15-5/15
2004 <sup>f</sup>	1,293	2	16	397	1	2.5	3.95	5,110	11/15-5/15
2005	5,619	4	51	1,076	2	2.7	4.52	25,054	11/15-5/15
2006	<sup>e</sup>	1	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	3.98	<sup>e</sup>	11/15-5/15
2007	8,023	8	106	926	4	2.4	3.06	24,464	11/15-5/15

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Year	Commercial harvest (lbs) a	Permits fished	Landings	Pot pulls	CPUE	Average weight (lb)	Exvessel price/lb	Fishery value (\$)	Season dates <sup>b</sup>
2008	14,676	9	129	1,008	6	2.5	3.03	43,664	11/15-5/15

2009	12,348	7	130	1,282	4	2.5	3.01	32,649	11/15–5/15
2010	12,028	10	184	1,848	3	2.5	3.54	41,265	11/15–5/15
2011	8,669	5	129	1,747	2	2.6	3.59	30,776	11/15–5/15
2012	24,142	35	319	1,668	5	2.6	6.47	150,569	11/15–5/15
2013	62,179	26	495	6,093	4	2.8	6.73	402,256	11/15–5/15
2014	34,587	21	323	4,037	4	2.3	6.94	234,291	11/15–5/15
2015	98,750	44	664	7,314	6	2.4	6.57	617,434	11/15–4/30
2016 <sup>g</sup>	79,986	48	471	5,459	5	2.7	7.22	559,803	2/15–4/21
2017 <sup>g</sup>	77,843	88	435	3,225	8	3.0	6.73	483,797	2/07–3/22
2018 <sup>g</sup>	29,118	43	322	2,566	4	3.2	6.95	186,044	3/03–4/30
2019	3,295	6	21	195	5	3.1	6.97	20,699	2/25–4/30
2020	223	1	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	1,616	2/29–4/30
2021	922	3	18	89	3	2.9	6.77	4,471	2/01–4/30
2022	7,683	8	86	765	3	2.8	8.25	55,614	2/01–4/30
2023	10,013	7	90	659	5	2.8	8.84	84,815	2/01–4/30

<sup>a</sup> Deadloss included in total.

<sup>b</sup> From 1986 to 2014, season dates were from November 15 of the previous year to May 15 of the current year. In 2015, season dates were from

November 15, 2014, to April 30, 2015. Starting in 2016, the season is opened by emergency order anytime on or after January 15 and closes by

regulation on April 30 or earlier by EO.

<sup>c</sup> Prior to the 1985 season, no crab fish ticket data were entered into the fish ticket database. Some data for years 1985-86, 1989-91, and 1993 were

missing from the fish ticket database. Some information were found in the text of the annual management report for the respective year.

<sup>d</sup> Value given is price per crab. Fishery value was derived by multiplying price per crab by number of crab harvested.

<sup>e</sup> Information is confidential

<sup>f</sup> Confidentiality was waived by the fishermen.

<sup>g</sup> Includes catch information and values from the winter CDQ fishery.

. Table 2.—Historical summer commercial red king crab fishery economic performance, Norton Sound Section, Eastern Bering Sea, 1977–2023.

Year	Guideline harvest level (lbs) <sup>b</sup>	Legal male pop est (lbs) <sup>b</sup>	Commercial		Exvessel price/lb	Fishery value (millions \$)	Season length		
			open access	CDQ			days	open access	CDQ

1977	c	15.2	0.52	d	0.75	0.229	60	c	d
1978	3.00	14.8	2.09	d	0.95	1.897	60	6/07–8/15	d
1979	3.00	10.9	2.93	d	0.75	1.878	16	7/15–7/31	d
1980	1.00	6.0	1.19	d	0.75	0.890	16	7/15–7/31	d
1981	2.50	3.9	1.38	d	0.85	1.172	38	7/15–8/22	d
1982	0.50	2.7	0.23	d	2.00	0.405	23	8/09–9/01	d
1983	0.30	3.4	0.37	d	1.50	0.537	4	8/01–8/05	d
1984	0.40	3.9	0.39	d	1.02	0.395	14	8/01–8/15	d
1985	0.45	4.3	0.43	d	1.00	0.427	22	8/01–8/23	d
1986	0.42	4.7	0.48	d	1.25	0.600	13	8/01–8/25 <sup>e</sup>	d
1987	0.40	4.7	0.33	d	1.50	0.491	11	8/01–8/12	d
1988	0.20	4.9	0.24	d	c	c	10	8/01–8/11	d
1989	0.20	4.9	0.25	d	3.00	0.739	3	8/01–8/04	d
1990	0.20	4.7	0.19	d	c	c	4	8/01–8/05	d
1991	0.34	4.4			No Summer Commercial Fishery				
1992	0.34	4.2	0.07	d	1.75	0.130	2	8/01–8/03	d
1993	0.34	3.8	0.33	d	1.28	0.430	52	7/01–8/28 <sup>f</sup>	d
1994	0.34	3.2	0.32	d	2.02	0.646	31	7/01–7/31	d
1995	0.34	2.6	0.32	d	2.87	0.926	67	7/01–9/05	d
1996	0.34	2.2	0.22	d	2.29	0.519	57	7/01–9/03 <sup>g</sup>	d
1997	0.08	2.1	0.09	d	1.98	0.184	44	7/01–8/13 <sup>h</sup>	d
1998	0.08	2.4	0.03	d	1.47	0.041	65	7/01–9/03 <sup>i</sup>	d
1999	0.08	3.3	0.02	d	3.08	0.073	66	7/01–9/04 <sup>j</sup>	d
2000	0.33	3.9	0.29	0.01	2.29	0.715	91	7/01–8/29	9/01–9/29
2001	0.30	3.6	0.28	0.00	2.34	0.674	97	7/01–9/01	9/01–9/09
2002	0.24	3.4	0.24	0.01	2.81	0.729	77	7/01–8/06	6/15–28; 8/9–9/3
2003	0.25	3.5	0.25	0.01	3.09	0.823	68	7/01–8/13	6/15–28; 8/15–24
2004	0.35	3.9	0.34	0.03	3.13	1.038	53	7/01–8/08	6/15–6/28
2005	0.37	3.9	0.37	0.03	3.18	1.264	72	7/01–8/15	6/15–28; 8/17–27
2006	0.45	3.6	0.42	0.03	2.26	1.021	67	7/01–8/22	6/15–6/28

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Year	Guideline harvest level (lbs) <sup>b</sup>	Legal male pop est (lbs) <sup>b</sup>	Commercial harvest (lbs) <sup>a,b</sup>		Exvessel price/lb	Fishery value (millions \$)	Season length dates		
			open access	CDQ			days	open access	CDQ
2007	0.32	3.5	0.29	0.02	2.84	0.750	52	7/01–8/17	6/15–6/28
2008	0.41	3.8	0.36	0.03	3.20	1.231	73	6/23–8/18	8/17–9/03
2009	0.38	4.1	0.37	0.03	3.17	1.225	98	6/15–9/20 <sup>k</sup>	6/15–7/28 <sup>k</sup>

2010		0.40	4.5	0.39	0.03	3.73	1.528	58	7/01–8/24	6/28–7/16
2011		0.36	4.5	0.37	0.03	5.23	2.016	33	6/28–7/30	6/28–7/08
2012		0.47	4.0	0.44	0.03	5.41	2.556	72	6/29–8/11	6/29–9/08
2013		0.50	3.5	0.37	0.02	5.63	2.165	74	7/03–9/14	7/03–9/14 <sup>i</sup>
2014		0.38	3.5	0.36	0.03	5.12	1.960	52	6/25–8/02	6/25–8/15
2015		0.39	4.3	0.37	0.03	5.40	2.130	26	6/29–7/24	6/29–7/24 <sup>l</sup>
2016	<sup>m</sup>	0.52	4.4	0.42	0.04	6.50	2.713	25	6/27–7/21	3/23–4/21; 6/27–7/9
2017	<sup>m</sup>	0.50	3.8	0.41	0.04	6.25	2.560	30	6/26–7/25	2/28–3/22
2018	<sup>m</sup>	0.32	3.0	0.30	0.02	6.25	1.846	35	6/24–7/28	3/03–4/14
2019	<sup>m</sup>	0.15	2.5	0.07	0.00	6.98	0.514	71	6/25–9/03 <sup>n</sup>	6/25–9/03 <sup>n</sup>
2020		0.17	2.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.000	0	6/15–9/03	none
2021		0.29	3.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.000	0	6/15–9/03	none
2022		0.34	4.3	0.30	0.03	12.00	3.708	40	6/15–7/24	7/08–7/20
2023		0.35	4.4	0.39	0.03	6.50	2.684	29	6/21–7/19	7/06–7/17

<sup>a</sup> Deadloss and personal use included in total.

<sup>b</sup> Millions of pounds.

<sup>c</sup> Information not available.

<sup>d</sup> No CDQ harvest was allocated until 1998, and no harvest occurred until 2000.

<sup>e</sup> Fishing began 8/12.

<sup>f</sup> Fishing began 7/8.

<sup>g</sup> Fishing began 7/9 due to fishermen's strike.

<sup>h</sup> First delivery was made 7/10.

<sup>i</sup> First delivery was made 7/16.

<sup>j</sup> The season was extended 24 hours due to bad weather.

<sup>k</sup> NSSP stopped buying crab from 6/29 to 7/6 due to poor meat fill.

<sup>l</sup> Final delivery was made 7/17.

<sup>m</sup> GHF includes 8% that was allocated to the winter commercial fishery; the fishery value does not include amount from the winter CDQ fishery, if any; and number of season days does not include the winter CDQ fishery, if any.

<sup>n</sup> Season ended by regulation on September 3, but NSSP stopped buying crab on 8/25 due to slow catch rate and soft shell crab.

Table 3.—Historical summer commercial red king crab annual harvest, Norton Sound Section, Eastern Bering Sea, 1977–2023.

Year	Number vessels	Number permits	Number landings	Number crab	Harvest (lbs) <sup>a</sup>		OA+CDQ		Average weight (lbs)
					open access	CDQ <sup>b</sup>	CPUE	Pot pulls	
1977	7	7	13	195,877	517,787		36	5,457	2.7
1978	8	8	54	660,829	2,091,961		64	10,817	3.0
1979	34	34	76	970,962	2,931,672		28	34,773	3.0
1980	9	9	50	329,778	1,186,596		29	11,199	3.6

1981	36	36	108	376,313	1,379,014		11	33,745	3.7
1982	11	11	33	63,949	228,921		6	11,230	3.6
1983	23	23	26	132,205	368,032		12	11,195	2.8
1984	8	8	21	139,759	387,427		14	9,706	2.8
1985	6	6	72	146,669	427,011		11	13,209	2.9
1986	3	3	c	162,438	479,463		38	4,284	2.9
1987	9	9	c	103,338	327,121		10	10,258	3.2
1988	2	2	c	76,148	236,688		32	2,350	3.1
1989	10	10	c	79,116	246,487		15	5,149	3.1
1990	4	4	c	59,132	192,831		19	3,172	3.1
1991 <sup>d</sup>					No Summer Commercial Fishery				
1992	27	27	c	24,902	74,029		4	5,746	3.0
1993	14	20	208	115,913	335,790		16	7,063	2.9
1994	34	52	407	108,824	327,858		9	11,729	3.0
1995	48	81	665	105,967	322,676		6	18,782	3.0
1996	41	50	264	74,752	224,231		7	10,453	3.0
1997	13	15	100	32,606	92,988		11	2,982	2.8
1998	8	11	50	10,661	29,684		7	1,639	2.8
1999	10	9	53	8,734	23,553		5	1,630	2.7
2000	14	17	202	108,249	297,654	14,870	18	6,345	2.7
2001	30	37	320	98,321	288,199	0	8	11,928	2.9
2002	28	32	164	86,666	244,376	15,225	14	6,491	3.0
2003	24	30	219	88,518	253,284	13,923	11	8,494	2.8
2004	26	29	208	120,289	314,472	26,274	15	8,066	2.8
2005	30	32	227	128,405	370,744	30,060	16	8,867	2.9

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Year	Number vessels	Number permits (open access only)	Number landings	Number crab	Harvest (lbs) <sup>a</sup>		OA+CDQ		Average weight (lbs)
					open access	CDQ <sup>b</sup>	CPUE	Pot pulls	
2006	28	29	224	139,131	419,191	32,557	17	8,695	3.0
2007	30	30	234	101,672	289,264	23,611	12	9,118	2.8
2008	23	23	230	132,295	364,235	30,900	16	8,721	2.8
2009	22	23	333	133,498	369,462	28,125	12	11,934	2.8
2010	23	25	256	139,014	387,304	30,000	16	9,698	2.8



2011	24	25	173	132,030	373,990	26,850	21	6,808	2.8
2012	29	29	289	149,604	441,080	34,910	16	10,041	2.9
2013	33	33	435	124,485	373,278	18,585	9	15,058	3.0
2014	33	35	281	120,385	360,860	28,148	13	10,127	3.0
2015	36	36	231	133,531	371,520	29,595	17	8,356	2.8
2016	36	37	227	137,774	416,576	38,790 <sup>e</sup>	17	8,009	3.0
2017	36	36	270	135,323	411,739	37,232 <sup>f</sup>	14	9,440	3.0
2018	33	33	256	89,613	298,396	23,957 <sup>f</sup>	10	8,797	3.3
2019	24	26	146	24,504	73,784	1,239	5	5,436	3.0
2020	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>
2021	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	<sup>d</sup>
2022	27	26	153	115,079	291,553	25,620	24	5,154	2.5
2023	25	24	142	137,110	387,031	29,438	28	5,085	2.8

<sup>a</sup> Deadloss included in total.

<sup>b</sup> No CDQ fishery harvest prior to the 2000 season.

<sup>c</sup> Data not available.

<sup>d</sup> No summer commercial fishery.

<sup>e</sup> 35,207 pounds were harvested during the winter CDQ fishery.

<sup>f</sup> All CDQ harvest occurred during the winter.

# King Crab Exclusive Harvest Area

The section of ice lying between the mouth of the Nome River and Dredge #6, extending due south, is closed to commercial crab fishing. Only subsistence and personal use fishermen are allowed to operate in this area, but are not confined to this area.

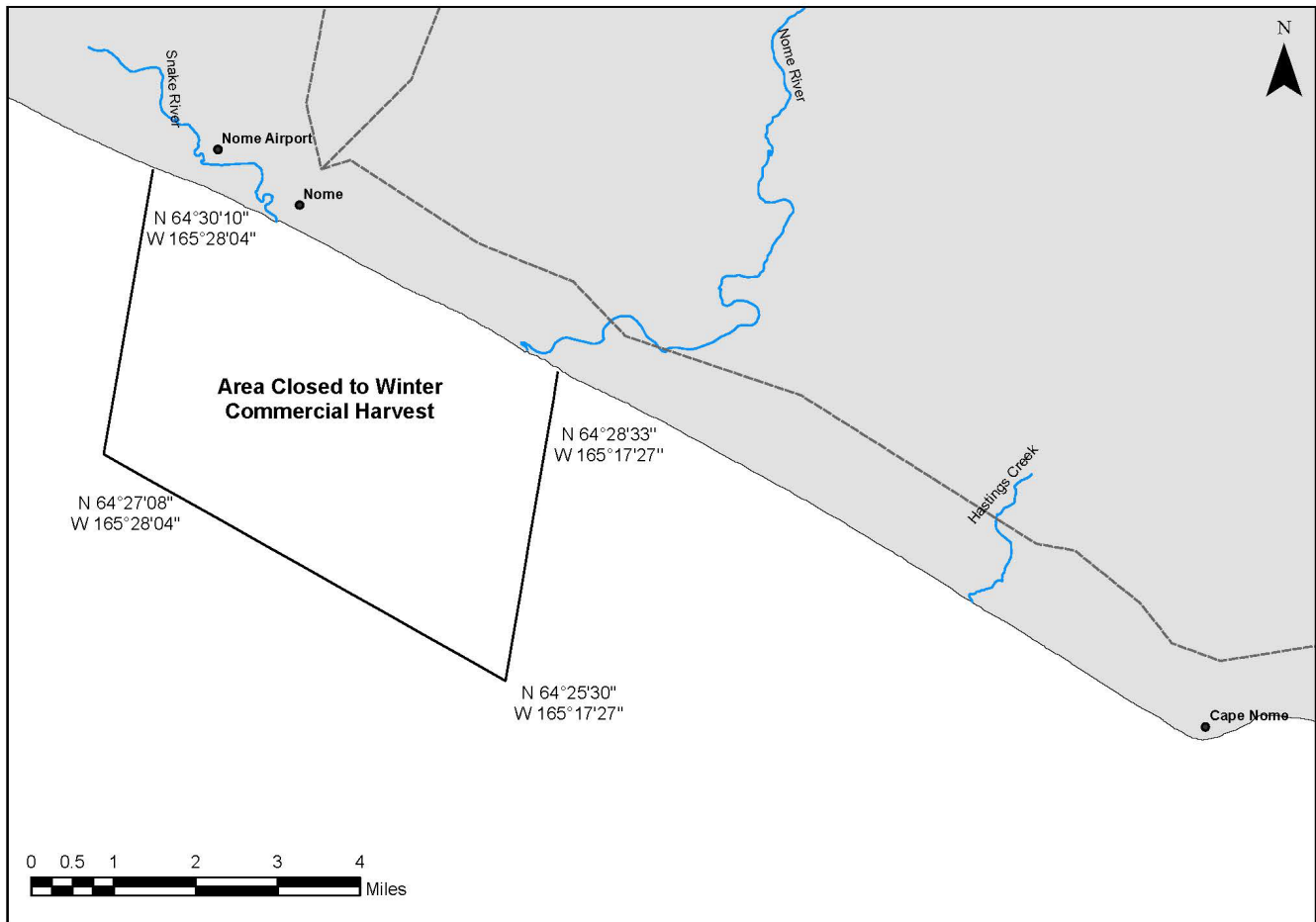


Figure 1.—Closed waters area in effect for the Norton Sound winter commercial crab fishery.

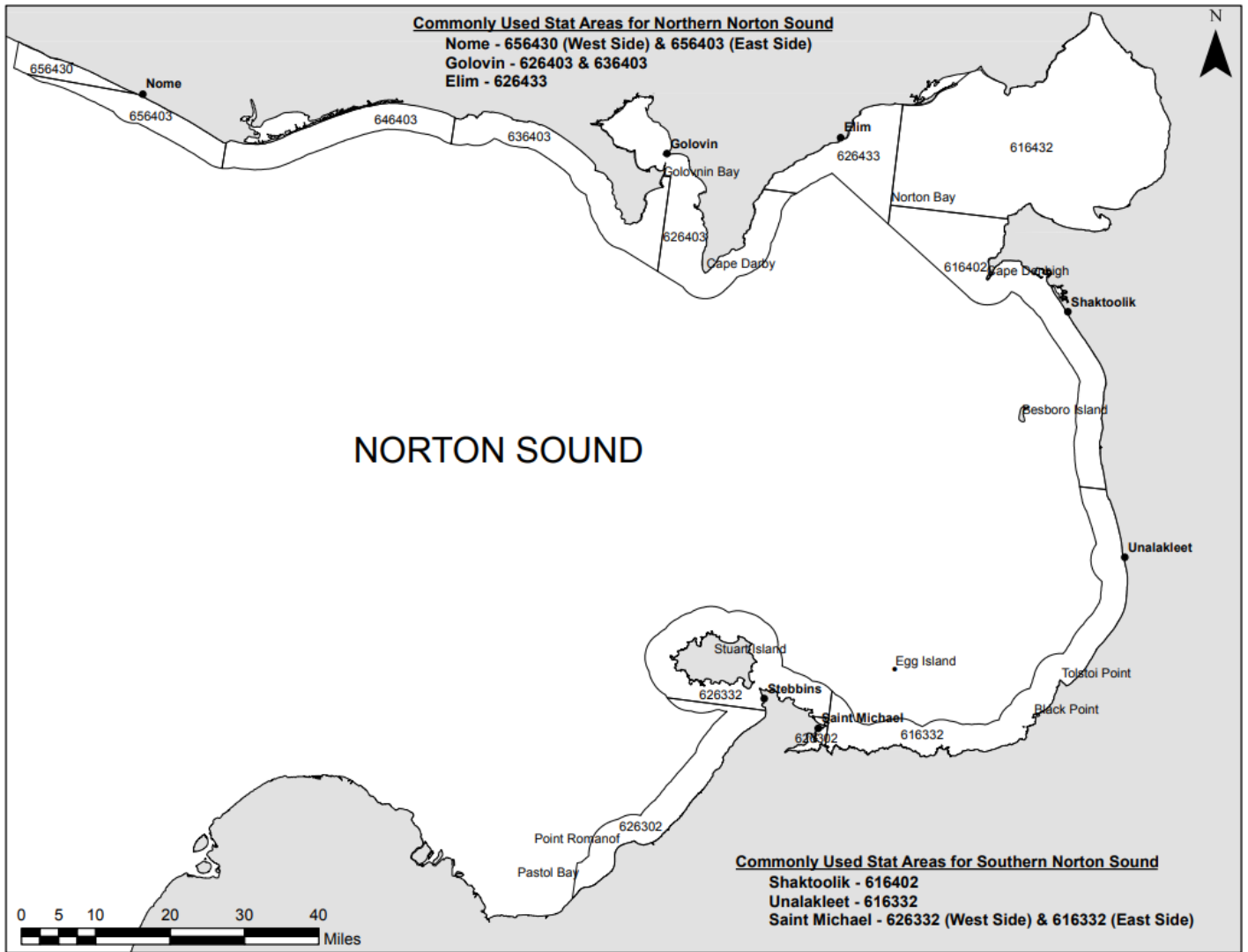


Figure 2.—Statistical areas in effect for the Norton Sound winter commercial crab fishery.

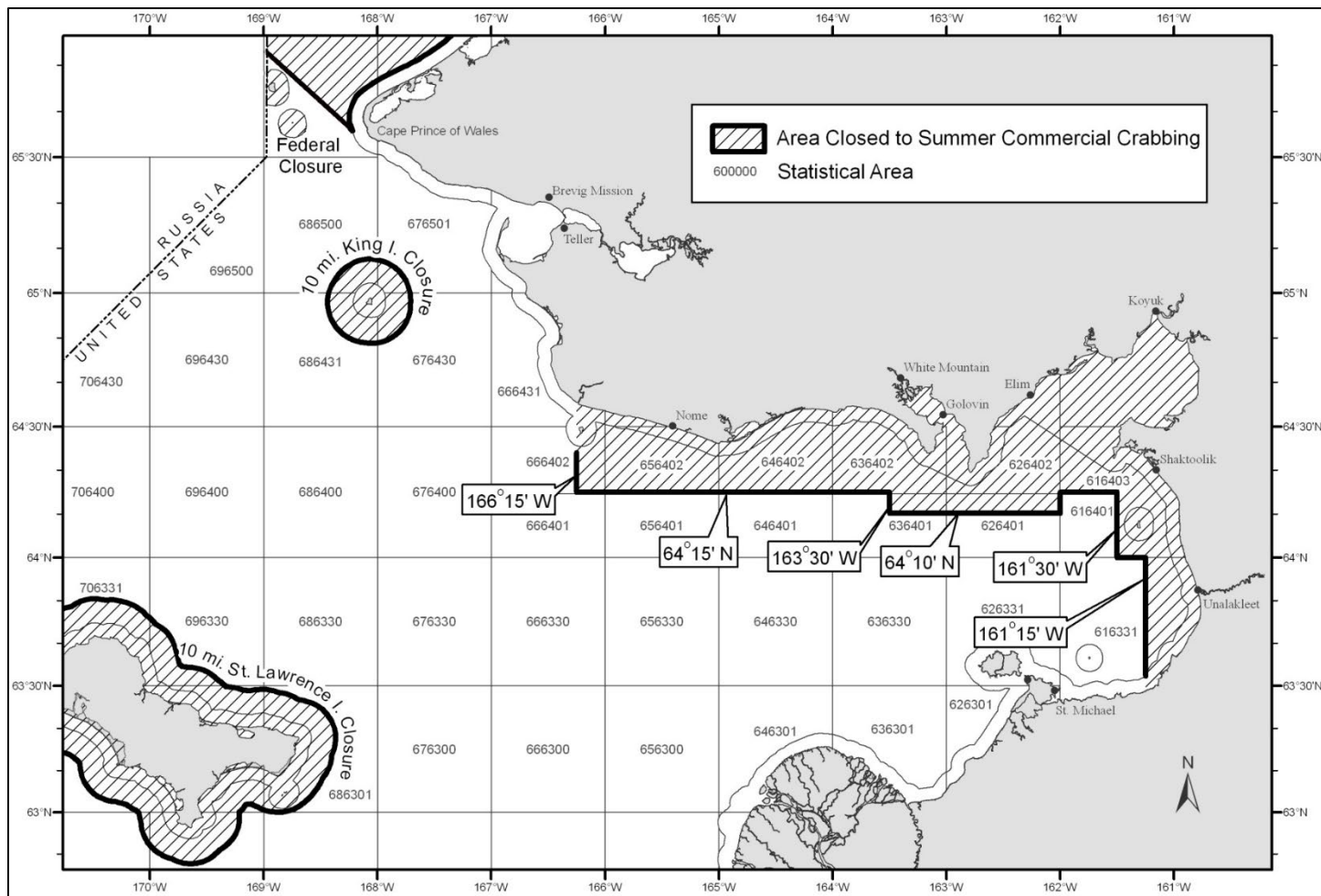


Figure 3.—Statistical areas and close-waters area in effect for the Norton Sound summer commercial crab fishery. *Note:* Line drawn around the coastline delineates the 3-mile state waters zone.