

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 3, 2025

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NORTON SOUND KING CRAB SUMMER OPEN ACCESS COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO RE-OPEN

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Nome for commercial king crab fisherman in registration area Q.

Commercial crabbing in Area Q Norton Sound:

- Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesday, July 9, 2025, the Norton Sound king crab summer open access commercial fishery will re-open.
- Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, July 10, 2025, the Norton Sound king crab summer open access commercial fishery will close.
- At the time of closure all crab pots must have all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured open.
- All vessels must have all king crab delivered by 12:01 a.m. midnight Friday, July 11, 2025, or be waiting to deliver in Nome, or at a crab tender, at this time.
- Pots with bait and bait jars removed with doors full open must be removed from the water by Thursday, July 17.
- Vessels delivering outside of the registration area are required to notify the ADF&G office in Nome with an estimated time of arrival to their delivery location, approximate count of crab on board, and an approximate weight in pounds of crab on board before leaving registration area Q. They are additionally required to check in with the ADF&G office in Dutch Harbor before entering area M.

The Norton Sound king crab summer open access commercial fishery GHL of approximately 371,000 pounds was not harvested during the open season and approximately 53,000 pounds of GHL remain. The department will re-open at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, July 9, for 24-hours to allow harvest of the remaining GHL.

Any vessel that is unable to comply with pot removal requirements or has pots still in fishing condition at the time of closure, through no fault of their own, must contact the department immediately to remedy the situation. The department may be contacted by phone (907-947-5167) or by email to kevin.clark@alaska.gov luke.heslee@alaska.gov or ethan.kelso@alaska.gov. Failure to contact the department immediately may result in enforcement actions.

Commercial crab permit holders already registered with Fish & Game for the 2025 open access fishery who intend on fishing this 24-hour opening do not need to re-register and can use the 2025 pot tags previously issued to the permit holder.

Two buyers are currently registered for the summer commercial crab season. Fisherman selling crab to a non-registered buyer must register with the department in one of the marketing programs in order to sell their catch. Application forms for the marketing programs can be picked up at the Nome Fish and Game office or can be obtained online at www.adfg.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.sellers

When crabbing, permit holders must be in possession of their 2025 Norton Sound king crab commercial permit and a government issued photo ID card, or driver's license. Those assisting a commercial permit holder must be in possession of a 2025 commercial crewmember license, or a 2025 State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit for any fishery may be substituted. Crewmember licenses are available at the Nome Fish & Game office or can be purchased online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/

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

Good Luck and Good Crabbing!