

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
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2026 NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL HERRING FISHERY TO OPEN

The Norton Sound commercial herring fishery will open effective 8 a.m. May 27 and close at 11:59 p.m. June 30. Herring should arrive soon in southern Norton Sound and Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) is interested in buying up to 45 tons of herring for bait. Leaving the herring fishery open continuously allows the buyer to direct the fishing fleet to areas where harvest efficiency can be maximized.

To participate in the commercial herring fishery, fishermen must hold a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) 2026 Norton Sound bait or sac roe commercial herring permit and an ADF&G vessel license. Permit holders also must have a valid government-issued picture I.D.

Crew members must have a 2026 crew member license or current year CFEC limited entry or interim use permit. For example, a 2026 CFEC Norton Sound king crab or salmon permit can substitute as a crewmember license for a crewmember on a herring vessel.

Permit holders will need to ensure they have a market for their herring before commencing fishing operations.

Permit holders can contact the ADF&G Nome office at 1-800-560-2271 or 443-5167 for information needs.