

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director

Nome Office
PO Box 1148
Nome, AK 99762-1148



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: June 23, 2026

CONTACT: Kevin Clark or Ethan Kelso
Norton Sound Area Manager and
Shellfish Management Biologist
(907) 443-5167 (800) 560-2271

NORTON SOUND KING CRAB SUMMER OPEN ACCESS COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO CLOSE

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

Commercial crabbing in Area Q Norton Sound:

- Effective 11:59 a.m. noon Thursday, June 25, 2026, 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 11:59 p.m. midnight Thursday, June 25, 2026, be waiting to deliver in Nome, or at a crab tender, by this time.
- 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 red king crab fleet should harvest the remaining summer king crab open access fishery GHL by the time of closure, based on current catch rates. The forecast is for fair weather this week, but crabbers are reminded to monitor conditions.

Pots must be removed from the water by Thursday, July 2. In the event a vessel cannot remove their pots from the water due to unforeseen issues beyond the control of the fisherman, or if another vessel is required to retrieve pots due to mechanical issues, contact Kevin Clark or Ethan Kelso in the ADF&G office in advance.

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