

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



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Time: 11:00 a.m.

OVER ONE-HALF NORTON SOUND CDQ RED KING CRAB ALLOCATION HARVESTED

The 2017 red king crab commercial Community Development Quota (CDQ) allocation for Norton Sound is up to 37,260 pounds. As of this morning, March 17, Friday, approximately 19,500 pounds, or 52% of the CDQ red king crab allocation has been harvested by 38 registered permit holders. Roughly 17,800 pounds of the allocation remain. Unless the entire allocation has been harvested, the winter CDQ commercial fishery remains open until the winter season closes by regulation on April 30. However, the CDQ buyer can manage their quota as they see fit and can therefore suspend buying operations for any reason at any time. Fishermen are encouraged to remain in regular contact with NSEDC/NSSP staff as the season progresses.

Under NSEDC's policies, commercial fishing for CDQ crab is open to any fisherman, 18 years or older, who qualifies as a Norton Sound resident under NSEDC's residency policy, can obtain a CDQ gear permit card, and who signs the 2017 NSEDC Norton Sound Red King Crab Fisherman's Agreement and NSEDC Residency Verification forms. Interested fishermen should contact Scott or Simon with NSEDC at 443-2477 if they have questions about the process of becoming eligible to fish for CDQ red king crab.

In addition, crabbers interested in participating in the CDQ fishery must register their CDQ cards with ADF&G. Village residents can call the ADF&G office to register. Permit holders must have their permit card in possession and be present any time pot gear is being operated, and can only be assisted by licensed crew members. Crewmembers cannot deploy or operate gear on their own. For further information please contact the Nome office at 907-443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

Good Luck, Good Crabbing and Be Safe Out There!