



Serving the fisheries of the Bering Strait Region

Brevig Mission Diomedé

Elim Gambell Golovin Koyuk Nome Saint Michael Savoonga Shaktoolik Stebbins Teller Unalakleet Wales White Mountain

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2011

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Norton Sound commercial salmon prices up for 2011

UNALAKLEET—Norton Sound salmon fishermen who deliver to Norton Sound Seafood Products will start the 2011 season with a higher price for their catch this year.

Norton Sound Seafood Products announces that it will pay fishermen 72 cents per pound for chum salmon and 25 cents/pound for pink salmon landed at the dock in Unalakleet to begin the 2011 season. This marks a 20 percent increase for chum and a 25 percent increase for pinks over 2010 prices. Fishermen were paid 60 cents/pound for chums and 20 cents/pound for pinks at the dock last year.

Norton Sound Seafood Products plans to start the season with three tenders on the fishing grounds to support our harvesters. Deliveries to tenders in 2011 will initially net fishermen 67 cents/pound for chum and 20 cents/pound for pinks. Early season fishing will primarily be delivered to tenders with deliveries to the docks in Unalakleet coming later in the season.

The 2011 salmon season in Norton Sound Sub-districts 2 (Golovnin Bay) and 3 (Elim) commenced with a 24-hour opener at noon June 20. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has predicted an above-average run of chum salmon in 2011 for the two sub-districts. ADF&G expects commercial harvests to range between 25,000-45,000 chum salmon for the two sub-districts combined.

ADF&G reports that while chum salmon abundance is sufficient to warrant commercial fishing, a directed chum salmon fishery will not take place until July 1 in Sub-districts 5 (Shaktoolik) and 6 (Unalakleet) to protect Chinook salmon moving through those areas. Commercial fishing for coho salmon may occur later in July. Commercial fishing may also occur later in Sub-district 4 (Norton Bay/Koyuk) for chum, coho and pink salmon if escapement permits and there is market interest.

[more]

“NSEDCE will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities”



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[2]

Commercial fishing for chum is closed in Sub-district 1 (Nome) and ADF&G does not expect commercial fishing to open for other salmon species in the sub-district this year. In its 2011 fisheries management plan, ADF&G noted that commercial fishing is not planned for the Port Clarence Sub-district.

Norton Sound Seafood Products is a division of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

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About NSED: Norton Sound Economic Development Corp. is a private 501(c)4 non-profit corporation representing 15 member communities and more than 8,490 people in the Bering Strait Region of Northwestern Alaska. NSED is one of six Community Development Quota organizations in Alaska. NSED maintains a balance between distant-water fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Key to that balance is the establishment of programs designed to provide immediate benefits to the residents of the region along with the continued pursuit of longer-term investments that provide a stable source of economic strength. For more information, see www.nsedc.com.

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