



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norton Sound commercial herring fishery a go for 2011

NOME—Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation is pleased to announce the closure of negotiations and the reaching of an agreement with Icicle Seafoods that will again bring a commercial sac roe herring fishery to the region this year.

Icicle Seafoods will bring a processing vessel to Norton Sound to purchase herring from resident fishermen. Icicle will also bring four tender vessels to the region to facilitate the fast-paced fishery. The Norton Sound fishery generally opens three weeks after the Togiak opener farther south. Current estimates would put this year’s Norton Sound opener, which is always subject to change, at the end of May.

The harvest target for 2011 is set at 1,000 tons. Fishermen will be paid on a sliding scale according to the percentage of roe recovery. Fish with recovery of less than 7 percent are directed to the bait fishery. The scale is as follows:

Roe Percentage:	Bait	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	13%	14%	15%
Price per ton:	\$50	\$190	\$210	\$230	\$250	\$270	\$290	\$310	\$330	\$350

Fishermen must sign up with Norton Sound Seafood Products to participate in the fishery. NSEDC has a limited amount of herring gear for sale through the NSEDC Revolving Loan program or the Fishermen’s Receivable Account. Those interested in participating in the fishery are strongly encouraged to contact Norton Sound Seafood Products prior to the opening to ensure timely receipt of gear. To sign up for the fishery or inquire about available gear, **contact the NSSP Unalakleet plant at (907) 624-3014** and ask for Operations Manager Reese Huhta, Assistant Manager Frank Doty or Office Manager Liz Ivanoff.

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



Serving the fisheries of the Bering Strait Region

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The fishery mainly targets herring roe which is sold as a luxury food item in Japan, often given during the holidays as gifts. Fish that do not meet the roe requirements will be sold as bait for other regional fisheries. Last year's sac roe herring fishery—the first held since 2006—attracted nearly 30 boats from the region. While the bulk of the herring catch occurs between Tolstoi Point and Stuart Island near St. Michael and Stebbins, and around Cape Denbigh near Shaktoolik, fishermen from all over the region participate.

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About NSEDC: 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. NSEDC is one of six Community Development Quota organizations in Alaska. NSEDC 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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