NOME DREDGERS RESOURCE GUIDE

A quick guide for 2015 dredging activities in Nome, Alaska

State of Alaska
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INTRODUCTION

This guide provides operators with important safety, regulatory, and legal information for conducting gold dredging off the coast of Nome, Alaska. The guide does not include every rule, regulation, or permit in full. Materials presented here may change. Permits vary depending on the mine plan, equipment size, and area of operation. No single guide can provide the appropriate process for permitting every operation. Additional information, on a case by case basis, will be necessary to ensure that you have the proper permits and safety equipment for your specific operation. This guide includes relevant agency contacts and web links following each subject. Please check with online and agency resources for the most up to date information.

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING PERMITS TO MINE IN THE PUBLIC MINING AREAS IN NOME IN 2015 IS MAY 31, 2015.

NO APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2015 MINING SEASON WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THESE AREAS AFTER THAT DATE.

THE CITY OF NOME WOULD LIKE TO REMIND MINERS THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL CAMPING AND OPERATION DEBRIS, TRASH, AND EQUIPMENT AFTER THEY SUSPEND THEIR OPERATION.

GENERAL

Nome
Nome is located on the southern coast of the Seward Peninsula in Norton Sound. The population is approximately 3,700. There are currently no roads to Nome, although a regional network of roads extends to neighboring communities. Nome is accessed by air and barge services. Additional sources of information about Nome can be found through the convention and visitor's bureau, the City of Nome, and the local paper, *The Nome Nugget*.

- City of Nome [http://www.nomealaska.org/](http://www.nomealaska.org/)

Nome Offshore Public Mining Area and Dredging

Suction dredging is a popular form of recovering gold from placer gravels in freshwater streams and in marine sediments. Suction dredges are categorized by the size of the intake hose (nozzle) and horsepower of the pump engine. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides a fact sheet with further information about suction dredging in Alaska. DNR provides additional information for those who are interested in gold dredging specifically in the area offshore of Nome. DNR has three Public Information Centers (PIC) where information may be sought in person or over the phone. The PICs are in Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. General information in this document is typically followed by specific agency contacts. Where that is not the case, the PIC is the best source for additional information.

The East and West Nome Beach Public Mining Areas are the only areas where people are allowed to suction dredge for gold on public land offshore of Nome without a mining lease. Commercial operations are not allowed in these areas. DNR has specific rules for mining in the Nome public mining areas. A map and coordinates depicting these areas are also available from DNR. Although some information from the
following documents is summarized in this guide, please refer to the documents in their entirety to ensure a safe and legal offshore dredging season in Nome.

- Other DNR mining fact sheets [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/)
- West Nome Beach Public Mining Area Map [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/WestNomeBeachPublicMiningArea.pdf](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/WestNomeBeachPublicMiningArea.pdf)

Public Information Centers and locations (PIC) [http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/)

**Anchorage PIC**
Robert T. Atwood Building  
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1260  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Ph 907-269-8400  
Fax 907-269-8901  
TDD 907-269-8411  
Email [dnr.pic@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.pic@alaska.gov)

**Fairbanks PIC**
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Ph 907-451-2705  
Fax 907-451-2706  
TDD 907-451-2770  
Email [fbx-pic@alaska.gov](mailto:fbx-pic@alaska.gov)

**Southeast Land Section (PIC)**
400 Willoughby Ave, 4th Floor  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Ph 907-465-3400  
Fax 907-586-2954  
Email [sero@alaska.gov](mailto:sero@alaska.gov)
STIPULATIONS AND PERMITS

PERMIT STIPULATIONS FOR THE NOME EAST AND WEST BEACH PUBLIC MINING AREAS

Generally, the permit stipulations will apply in both public mining areas at Nome. The stipulations will be as follows:

No individual or association of individuals or a company may hold an interest in the operation of more than one suction dredge in the two public mining areas combined. The intent of this stipulation is to prevent any individual, association of individuals, or company from leasing out a number of dredges to be operated in the public mining areas and retaining a royalty on production from the dredges. Individuals or companies may rent multiple dredges for use in the public mining areas, but the dredges must be rented at a set rental rate, with no royalty on production.

West Beach Public Mining Area

- Suction dredge miners will be limited to six-inch or less suction nozzles with no more than 23 horsepower pump engines. This limitation is to maintain the small/recreational mining character of the public mining area, and to extend the life of the resource in the new area.

East Beach Public Mining Area

- Suction dredge miners will be limited to eight-inch or less nozzles with no more than 46 horsepower pump engines. These conditions and limitations have been in place for this area for several years now.

Both East and West Nome Beach Public Mining Areas

- Miners must maintain a minimum 75 feet distance between dredges. The first miner on site establishes their position; miners arriving later must locate with no part of their operation, dredge, anchors, or divers less than the separation distances cited above from prior miner’s dredges.
- There is no winter (under-ice) dredging allowed in the East and West Recreation areas. Winter dredging is only allowed on leases and mining claims.
- Suction dredges are only allowed in the two offshore recreational mining areas when occupied by the miner. Miners may not leave their suction dredge anchored in the recreational areas and go ashore.
- Floating suction dredge or a stationary high banker operated below the mean high tide is the only equipment allowed in the recreational mining areas. Tracked, wheeled and mechanical equipment are not allowed.
- Miners may not leave their suction dredge anchored overnight unless they are on the dredge during the night.
- Miners may not leave any type of marker to secure a location for their exclusive mining on future days.
- A miner only occupies a location while their dredge is on that location and they are in operation.
- The miner must be in the water. All of the uplands at Nome are privately owned. Avoid submerged claims. Any miners mining or camping on the beach or tundra above the beach will be in trespass unless they have permission from the land owner. Trespass is not allowed and is grounds for revocation of a miner’s permit.
- Permits can be revoked for failure to follow stipulations or for aggressive behavior.
- Miners operating in either of the public mining areas will confine their operations to those public mining areas. Miners will not venture outside of the public mining areas without the written permission of existing adjacent lease holders. (Lease areas are discussed following the permit section.)
- Upon reasonable evidence that a miner operating in either of these two recreational areas is not in compliance with the above stipulation requirements, the miner’s permit may be revoked and the miner will not be allowed to operate in the recreational areas.
Offshore dredge operators do not have exclusive use of the Nome offshore. Small and slow-moving, suction dredges present a navigational hazard to harbor traffic and fisherman.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- Monitoring will be required based on the size of suction dredge or other mining method and water depth.
- In addition to DEC requirements, the following are minimum monitoring requirements:
  - The permittee must maintain a daily log for each piece of mining equipment (i.e. suction dredge, mechanical dredge) containing accurate GPS coordinates defining boundaries of mined areas, total acreage, water depths, and substrate type (i.e. sand, gravel, cobbles etc.) disturbed by mining. Logs must be made available to the authorized officer or a representative for inspection.
  - All logs must be submitted to DNR with annual reclamation statements. Copies are acceptable.
  - Turbidity must be monitored in accordance to DEC APDES Monitoring Requirements.

Additional monitoring may be required by the authorized officer on a case-by-case basis to address particularly sensitive environments or to avoid, minimize or mitigate significant adverse impacts.

NOME OFFSHORE LEASES

On September 28, 2011, DNR held a competitive sale for offshore mineral leases at Nome. Lease tracts had not been offered for this offshore area since 1999. Bids were submitted by a range of individuals and companies, from small scale miners to larger, international corporations. Miners operating in either of the public mining areas (East and West Nome Beach) must confine their operations to those public mining areas. You may not mine on leases or mining claims without an operator authorization from the lease holder or claim owner that has been approved by DNR. It is the applicant’s responsibility to uphold and maintain a current operator authorization for the life of a Multi-Year Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska (APMA – described in detail in the Permits section.) Failure to maintain an operator authorization form may result in a delay or revocation of an existing APMA. Under-ice dredging is only allowed on leases and mining claims and only in depths not to exceed 30 feet.

- 2011 Nome Offshore Mining Lease Sale Tract Location Map
- 2011 Nome Offshore Lease Coordinates

PERMITS

The following permits, licenses, and rules apply for all sizes of suction dredge operations in East and West Nome Beach Public Mining Areas. Six-inch or smaller suction dredges with no more than 18 hp engines operating outside either the East or West Public Mining Areas do not require a Miscellaneous Land Use Permit (MLUP); however, they do require a General Permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation.
Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska
An Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska (APMA) will be required for all sizes of dredges in both public mining areas. The APMA allows an applicant to file for permits from state and federal agencies using a single application. The APMA process is dependent on the location and type of operation submitted in your application. This requirement will allow the DNR to revoke permits for miners who do not follow the aforementioned stipulations for operating in the public mining areas.

- A $150 processing fee must accompany the application for the first year. The APMA may be filed for a period of up to five years, with an additional fee of $50 for each additional year.
- This is the coordinated effort for permitting oversight by multiple agencies with DNR as the lead.
- The APMA needs to be completed and approved annually. However, for multi-year APMAs only the Reclamation Plan, annual Reclamation Statement (due no later than December 31), and Bond Renewal (if applicable) need be submitted each year after the first year.
- Additional information may be required for permits issued by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game-Division of Habitat (ADFG), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- Permits are subject to revocation if trespassing, or if any rules, regulations, or stipulations are not followed.
- Miners must display the last four digits of their APMA number. The numbers must be at least 16 inches high and 10 inches wide and visible on the shoreward side of the dredge at all times.
- Miners must maintain a 300 foot buffer from any part of a set net; if your operation is mechanical or uses an eight inch or larger nozzle you must maintain a 500 foot buffer from set nets.

Contact: Lease/Claims:
Division of Mining, Land and Water
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 900B
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
William “Bill” Cole
Ph 907-269-8648 Fax 907-269-8649
Email william.cole@alaska.gov

Contact APMA:
Division of Mining, Land and Water
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Ph 907-451-2774 and 907-458-6869
Fax 907-451-2703
Email dnr.fbx.mining@alaska.gov
Charlene Bringhurst
Ph. 907-458-6869
charlene.bringhurst@alaska.gov

Contact APMA:
Division of Mining, Land and Water
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Ph 907-451-2774 and 907-458-6869
Fax 907-451-2703
Email dnr.fbx.mining@alaska.gov
Charlene Bringhurst
Ph. 907-458-6869
charlene.bringhurst@alaska.gov

Nome DNR Contact:
Nicholas Kimmel
Division of Mining, Land and Water
214 Front Street Suite 333
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-3546 Fax 907-443-3588
nicholas.kimmel@alaska.gov

Applications for the following permits are applied for through the APMA process described above.

**Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
The Miscellaneous Land Use Permit (MLUP) authorizes temporary use of state land or resources.

**Department of Fish and Game Office (F&G)**

*Fish Habitat Permits*
Any activity or project that is conducted below the ordinary high water mark of any fish bearing water body requires review by F&G. All activity in anadromous waters requires a Fish Habitat Permit, and any activity that could impede fish passage in a resident fish stream also requires a Fish Habitat Permit.
Anadromous Stream Restrictions

- As a general rule, all mining is prohibited year-round within the 0.5 mile distance (radius) from any anadromous river mouth. Additionally, for 10 inch and larger suction dredge or mechanical placer mining operations, such as an excavator on a barge, mining within the 1 mile distance (radius) of any anadromous river mouth between the annual dates of June 1 – July 15 is prohibited. Exceptions to these mining prohibitions for the following anadromous rivers are as follows:
  - Mining offshore of the mouths of the Snake River, Penny River and Cripple River, between the annual dates of September 15 to December 1, is allowed to a distance of 500 feet from the mouth of these rivers.
  - At no time, from September 15 to December 1, may any mining operation be closer than 500 feet to these three river mouths.

Contact:
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Ph 907-459-7289; Fax 907-459-7303

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
A USACE permit could be required for:
- Mechanical land clearing
- Backfilling
- Mine cuts
- Construction of a stream diversion
- Some road construction activities
- Suction dredging in a stream or offshore

Contact:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch-Permit Review Section
P O Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-6898
Toll Free within Alaska 1-800-478-2712, Call from outside of Alaska 907-753-2712

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Water Quality

A wastewater discharge permit is required for dredging.

- Suction dredges and mechanical dredges can be covered under one of the following general permits.
  - Small Suction Dredge General Permit (dredges with nozzles less than or equal to six-inches)
  - Medium Suction Dredge General Permit (dredges with nozzles greater than six-inches and less than or equal to ten-inches)
  - Large Dredge General Permit (suction dredges with nozzles greater than ten-inches and mechanical dredges)

- All suction dredges shall
  - Maintain a copy of the permit on the dredge;
  - Avoid dredging of concentrated silt and clay that creates significant turbidity;
  - Ensure that turbidity plumes do not overlap with plumes from other active dredges; and
  - Not mine when sea ice is present, unless otherwise authorized (see below).

- Suction dredges with intake nozzle diameters larger than six-inches or with pump engines greater than 23 horsepower and mechanical dredges must keep daily records of turbidity monitoring and submit an annual report to DEC before January 31.

- Under-ice operation is restricted as follows.
  - Suction dredges with intake nozzle diameters less than or equal to six-inches, greater than six-inches, and less than or equal to ten-inches:
    - Allowed, provided that under-ice operation is indicated on the APMA or on separate application submitted to DEC.
    - Limited to water depths less than or equal to 30 feet.
  - Suction dredges with intake nozzle diameters greater than ten-inches or mechanical dredges:
    - Currently not allowed under a general permit.
    - Must be covered by an individual permit with a separate application process.

Contact:
Nick Dallman, Placer Mine Coordinator
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
610 University Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Ph 907-451-2142
Email nicholas.dallman@alaska.gov
Website http://dec.alaska.gov/water/index.htm

ADDITIONAL DED INFORMATION AND PERMITS

Mercury

If you encounter mercury or other pollutants, do not return them to the water. Mercury is highly toxic, particularly when heated to extract gold. Mercury vapors are released into the air and can be inhaled. Mercury may also be ingested when you eat contaminated food. Dredge permits do not authorize the addition of mercury or other chemicals for the enhancement of mineral recovery.

- Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Mercury, Gold Mining and Health Fact Sheet http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/eh/MercuryGoldMiningFactsheet.pdf
Solid Waste, Food Service, Sewage, and Drinking Water
The following permits are not included in the APMA process, but are pertinent if you are applying for a camp permit on state land. A separate application must be submitted to DEC.

If you set up a remote base camp of operations, you may need a solid waste permit for your domestic waste.
Contact:
Neil Lehner
Ph 907-451-2134
Email neil.lehner@alaska.gov

Food service, wastewater (sewage), and drinking water permits may also be required. Also note that any hazardous waste encountered or generated by placer mining operations must be shipped out and disposed of at a facility permitted to accept hazardous waste.

Camp serving 13 - 24 (general temporary camp permit)
Contact: Charlecia Foster Ph 907-451-2100
Email charlecia.foster@alaska.gov
Website http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/Food/Temp_Camp_Home.html

Sewage disposal
Contact:
Marie Klingman
Ph 907-451-2101
marie.klingman@alaska.gov

Camp serving 25+ (regular camp food service permit)
Contact:
Lorinda Lhotka
Ph 907-451-2119
Email lorinda.lhotka@alaska.gov
Website: http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/forms/forms_home.html

Drinking water
Contact:
Lee Johnson
Ph 907-451-2179
Email lee.johnson@alaska.gov
Website http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/index.htm

All of the individuals above share this address:
Department of Environmental Conservation
610 University Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Website http://dec.alaska.gov/index.htm
TAXES, RENTS, AND ROYALTIES

MINING LICENSE TAX
Alaska levies a mining license tax on mining net income and royalties received in connection with mining properties and activities in Alaska. A person engaging in the business of mining in the state must obtain a license from the Department of Revenue. All new mining operations are exempt from the tax for three and one-half years after production begins; however, a mining license must be in possession during that time. To qualify for the exemption an Affidavit of Initial Production must be recorded in the recording district in which the operation is located.

Mining licensees are required to file an annual return that is due before May 1 for the previous calendar year’s business.

- Mining License Tax with link to forms
- Mining Forms with links to Affidavit of Initial Production for Mining
  http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/?tab=mining

Contact: Cecilia Torres Blanco
Department of Revenue Tax Division
550 W 7th Ave, Ste 500
Anchorage, AK 99501-3566
Ph (907) 269-1017
Email cecilia.licht@alaska.gov

PRODUCTION ROYALTY
Alaska requires a production royalty on all revenues received from minerals produced on state land including in the East and West Nome Beach Public Mining Areas. Minerals produced include any mineral extraction or leached in place from the surface or subsurface and sold or removed from the state. The royalty is three percent (3%) of net income determined under your mining license tax. A production royalty return must be prepared and submitted every May 1 from the previous calendar year. Unlike the mining license tax, new operations are not exempt.

Production Royalty Fact Sheet
http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/producti.pdf
Mining Forms with link to Production Royalty on Locatable Minerals
http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/?tab=mining

Contact:
Division of Mining, Land and Water
55 W. 7th Ave, Suite 900B Anchorage, AK
99501-3577
Richard R. Lessard
Ph 907-269-7889
Fax 907-269-8949
Email richard.lessard@alaska.gov

Division of Mining, Land and Water
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Ph 907-451-2774
Fax 907-451-2703
LABOR AND RENT FOR LEASEHOLDERS
Offshore Nome area leaseholders and claim owners must also file an annual affidavit of labor and pay annual rent.

- Annual Rental Fact Sheet [link](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/annualre.pdf)
- Annual Labor Fact Sheet [link](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/annualla.pdf)
- Mining Forms with links to Affidavit of Annual Labor Form and Rental Calculation Worksheet for
- Mineral Locations on State-Owned Land [link](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/?tab=mining)

FISHING AND ENVIRONMENT

SUBSISTENCE AND PERSONAL USE
Norton Sound and Port Clarence residents have relied on fish for cultural and nutritional sustenance for thousands of years. Subsistence and personal use set netting for fish occurs in the East and West Nome Beach Public Mining Areas and other locations offshore of Nome. Set nets are a type of gill net operation where the nets are up to 50 fathoms (300 feet) in length and are anchored at both ends just offshore marked with buoys. Adjacent nets are required to be 300 feet apart. Spin fishing (using a rod and reel) may occur along the drainages up and down the Nome coast.

Deploying or retrieving a set net in Cook Inlet, Alaska. Courtesy of ADF&G.

Offshore mining operators using suction dredge and mechanical placer mining equipment must implement the following buffer around these set nets.

- Miners must maintain a 300 foot buffer from any part of a set net; if your operation uses an 8 inch or larger nozzle or is a mechanical placer mining operation (e.g. excavator with a wash plant on a barge or vessel), you must maintain a 500 foot buffer from set nets.
- As a general rule, all mining is prohibited year-round within the 0.5 mile distance (radius) from any anadromous river mouth. Additionally, for 10 inch and larger suction dredge or mechanical placer mining operations, such as an excavator on a barge, mining within the 1 mile distance (radius) of any anadromous river mouth between the annual dates of June 1 – July 15 is prohibited. Exceptions to these mining prohibitions for the following anadromous rivers are as follows:
  - Mining offshore of the mouths of the Snake River, Penny River and Cripple River, between the annual dates of September 15 to December 1, is allowed to a distance of 500 feet from the mouth of these rivers.
  - At no time from September 15 to December 1, may any mining operation be closer than 500 feet to these three river mouths.

If a mining operator damages a set net, they will immediately report the damage to the Department of Fish and Game at 907-443-5167 and Department of Natural Resources at 907-443-3546.
SPORT FISHING
If you want to take fish for personal use in Southern Norton Sound, you must have a sport fishing license and adhere to all general and special regulations.

Fishing and Hunting License General FAQs
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.general
Northwestern Drainages 2014 Sport Fishing regulations

Contact: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
103 E Front Street
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5796 - Sport Fishing Information (summer only)
Website http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.main

PRIVATE LAND
The land surrounding Nome is privately owned. The majority of the land is owned by the City of Nome, the Nome Alaska Corporation, and various Alaska Native Corporations. Ownership includes a combination of surface and subsurface rights. As such, you are not allowed to camp on or mine the beach or the uplands of this privately owned land. Because the uplands are all privately owned, any miners mining or camping on the beach or tundra above the beach will be in trespass unless they have permission from the land owner. Trespass is not allowed and is grounds for revocation of the miner’s permit.

For contact information for State and Federal agencies that may be able to assist you with questions concerning mining on State and Federal lands, please see the Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau webpage www.visitnomealaska.com/nome-gold-dredging.html and the individual private land owners and Native Corporations are listed below.
SUBMERGED CLAIMS

Upland mining claims can extend into tide and submerged lands if at least two claim corners are at or above mean high water. A number of such claims have been located along the north coast of Norton Sound. This is the case both east and west of Nome and the offshore lease tracts.

Sometimes claims are staked improperly or are “paper staked.” In those cases a certificate of location is recorded, but no claim marker has actually been staked on the ground. Prospective miners should be extremely cautious if purchasing upland mining claims. DNR developed a fact sheet to protect yourself when considering the purchase of an existing claim.


HARBOR

Harbor space will be at a premium during the mining season. You should plan your operation such that you will not require harbor space if at all possible. Vessels should have their own trailer to haulout when necessary (during periods of significant overcrowding, i.e.: storm conditions, low visibility, etc.). Familiarize yourself with the Port Tariff Rules and Regulations, Harbor Moorage Policy, and harbor/river permit requirements. Vessel docking permits must be obtained in advance prior to launching.

All vessels are required to maintain a functioning VHF marine radio onboard at all times. VHF radios are to remain on Marine Channel 16 while traveling within the navigation channel and approach areas. Users must properly communicate with all other marine traffic when traveling in or out of the Nome Harbor.

Tariff rule and regulations and docking permit rates may be found on the port’s website.

- City of Nome Port & Harbor http://www.nomealaska.org/department/?fDD=14-0
Contact:
Port of Nome P.O. Box 281
307 Belmont Street
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-6619
Email port@nomealaska.org

**VEssel REGISTRATION**

Dredges equipped with mechanical propulsion are considered “boats” under both state and federal law, and are subject to the same boating safety equipment and boat registration requirements as other boats. The owner must complete a state registration application and pay appropriate fees to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Contact: Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Nome Office
214 Front Street #219 (2nd floor of the SITNASUAK Building)
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-2350
Website [http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reg/boat.htm](http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reg/boat.htm)
Hours: Open Monday through Wednesday and Friday 1:15pm - 4:30pm, Closed Thursdays and weekends

**EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND SAFETY**

**U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Requirements**

Any floating platform or vessel associated with mining and used to transport persons and equipped with motorized propulsion will be considered a vessel for the purposes of vessel registration and equipment requirements. Mining in marine and navigable waters with a floating vessel is subject to both State and Federal equipment requirements. An individual operating a boat in the State of Alaska must adhere to the following conditions:

- Must carry required equipment (see Alaska Vessel Safety Requirements Summary table on page 15)
- Must register the boat
- Must not operate their boat in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life or property of another person
- All persons under the age of 13 must wear a USCG-approved personal flotation devices (PFD) / life vests
- Operating a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Contact:
Kevin P. Williams, Marine Investigator
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage
Investigations Division
510 I St., Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph 907-428-4162
Email [Kevin.P.Williams@uscg.mil](mailto:Kevin.P.Williams@uscg.mil)

LT Brierley K. Ostrander
Assistant Chief of Inspections
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage
Ph 907-428-4164
Email [Brierly.k.ostrander@uscg.mil](mailto:Brierly.k.ostrander@uscg.mil)

Mail: Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage, P.O. BOX 5800, JBER, AK 99505-0800
REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT


The following pages highlight state and federal requirements for vessel safety equipment. At a minimum, all dredge vessels must meet the federal and state boating safety standards summarized in the ALASKA VESSEL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY table. Certain vessels, depending on the particulars of their operations, may be required to meet additional standards.

A summary of the Coast Guard’s approach to gold dredgers in the 2014 season can be found in the following Marine Safety Information Bulletin, “Vessel Safety Requirements for Offshore Dredge Operations for the Captain of the Port, Western Alaska Zone.”


Vessel Safety Requirements for Offshore Dredge Operations for the Captain of the Port, Western Alaska Zone

Ref: (a) Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter S
(b) State of Alaska Statute AS 05.25
(c) Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter C and Subchapter I

OVERVIEW: The Coast Guard will continue to promote maritime safety and environmental protection in Nome during the 2014 gold dredging season. This informational bulletin discusses minimum safety requirements for recreational gold dredge vessel operators in coastal waters under the concurrent jurisdiction of the Coast Guard and the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety. Please contact Sector Anchorage to discuss the specifics of your dredging vessel(s) if your operation is other than recreational.

Definitions:
- **Vessel:** A floating dredge (including jack-up dredges that float into position, excluding crawlers).
- **Seagoing vessel:** A vessel that operates outside of the Nome Harbor.
- **Motor vessel:** A vessel that has an engine of any type for propulsion.
- **Non-self propelled vessel:** A vessel that does not have an engine for propulsion.
- **Towing vessel:** A self-propelled vessel used to push or pull a non-self propelled vessel.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS: As in years past, all seagoing motor vessels less than 300 gross tons must meet the recreational boasting safety standards set forth in references (a) and (b). All seagoing motor vessels 300 gross tons and above must meet the safety requirements of reference (c). Operators of non-self propelled vessels requiring a towing vessel for positioning must ensure the towing vessel meet the safety requirements of reference (c). Note that towing vessels 26ft or longer must be operated by a master with an appropriate Coast Guard credential.

DOCKSIDE SAFETY CHECKS: The Coast Guard will offer voluntary dockside safety checks during limited time periods. Interested operators will be able to sign up through the Harbormaster's Office. While the dockside safety checks are not mandatory, they are strongly encouraged. Passing a dockside safety check may reduce an operator's chances of being involuntarily boarded by the Coast Guard during mining operations.

AT SEA ENFORCEMENT: The Coast Guard will conduct underway boardings on dredge vessels off the coast of Nome to ensure compliance with applicable federal regulations. If violations are identified, fines or voyage termination may result.

MANDATORY POLLUTION REPORTING: Operators must notify the Coast Guard National Response Center if oil or certain other hazardous pollutants enter the ocean or waters leading to the ocean. This includes pollution spilled on or through the ice during winter dredging. To report a spill, call 1-800-424-8802.

EMERGENCIES: The Coast Guard Sector Anchorage Command Center operates 24/7 and can be reached via marine radio or by calling 907-428-4100.


CONTACT: Coast Guard Sector Anchorage will continue to refine its approach to vessel safety with sensitivity to the unique operating conditions of Nome's expanding gold dredge fleet. Please contact Mr. Kevin Williams at 907-428-4162 or Lieutenant Brierley Ostrander at 907-428-4164 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

PAUL MUELLER III
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge Marine Inspection, Western Alaska
## ALASKA VESSEL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Boats Under 16 Feet</th>
<th>Boats 16 feet to less than 26 feet</th>
<th>Boats 26 feet to less than 40 feet</th>
<th>Boats 40 feet to less than 65 feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)</strong></td>
<td>One USCG-approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person on board. Must be in serviceable condition. Persons under 13 must wear a PFD when in an open boat, on the deck of a boat or when waterskiing.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Throwable Devices (Type IV)</strong></td>
<td>Recommended but not mandatory.</td>
<td>Except for canoes and kayaks, one USCG- approved Type IV (seat cushion or throw ring) device must be carried.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sound Producing Devices</strong></td>
<td>Boats less than 39.4 feet (12 meters) in length must be able to make an efficient sound signal (such as that made with a whistle or horn) to signal intentions and to signal position in periods of reduced visibility.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Boats 39.4 feet (12 meters) or more in length must carry on board a whistle or horn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Distress Signals</strong></td>
<td>USCG- approved night signals required between sunset and sunrise.</td>
<td>USCG-approved visual distress signals for both day and night time use must be carried. Exception: boats and open sailboats not equipped with mechanical propulsion and under 26 feet in length are not required to carry day signals. Note: Pyrotechnic devices, if used to meet this requirement, must be current, serviceable and readily accessible. At the minimum, a total of three day/night combination devices or three day and three night devices must be carried.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fire Extinguishers</strong></td>
<td>At least one USCG-approved B-I required for boats with inboard engines, living spaces, permanent fuel tanks or enclosed storage areas or hull voids not sealed or filled with flotation material.</td>
<td>At least two B-I or one B-II USCG-approved fire extinguishers.</td>
<td>At least three B-I or one B-I and one B-II USCG-approved fire extinguishers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Navigation Lights</strong></td>
<td>Display required between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility. International configuration required (varies with length and mode of operation). See the International Navigation Rules.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Backfire Flame Arresters</strong></td>
<td>One USCG-approved backfire control device on each carburetor of all inboard gasoline engines.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ventilation</strong></td>
<td>Boats with permanently installed engines, closed compartments or permanent fuel tanks must have efficient natural or mechanical ventilation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
<td>Undocumented boats equipped with mechanical propulsion (gas, diesel or steam engines, and electric motors) and any undocumented vessel used in sport fishing charter activities must be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Certificate of Number must be carried onboard. Registration numbers and validation decals must be properly displayed on hull of boat.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DREDGE VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

By participating in a voluntary dockside dredge vessel safety check, vessel owners can earn a decal indicating that their vessels have been found to be in full compliance with federal regulations. Decals are not mandatory, but are highly encouraged. Decals can only be issued by Coast Guard representatives during the limited periods in which examiners will be in Nome (dates TBD). But vessel owners and operators may use the examination form to aid in performing their own safety checks in order to be better prepared for the possibility of being boarded on the water by Coast Guard enforcement teams. For more information, contact Coast Guard Sector Anchorage.

VOLUNTARY DREDGE SAFETY CHECK
SAFETY EQUIPMENT EXAMINATION

To be completed by a U.S. Coast Guard District 17 approved Examiner.

Owner Name: ____________________________  Owner/Operator Name: ____________________________
Owner/Operator has attended a Boating or Diving Safety Class:
Yes ☐ No ☐ Class date/location: ____________________________
Location of Exam: ____________________________
Replaced decal was: Last Year ☐ ; Outdated ☐ ; First Time ☐

VESSEL INFORMATION:
Registration or Documentation Number: ____________________________
HIN: ____________________________
Length: <16 ☐ ; 16-25 ☐ ; 26-39 ☐ ; 40-65 ☐
Powered by: Gas ☐ ; Diesel ☐ ; Sail ☐ ; Other ☐
Area of Operations: Inland ☐ ; Coastal ☐
Type: Open ☐ ; Cabin ☐ ; Other ☐

I certify that I have personally examined this vessel and find it meets the above requirements at the time of this Voluntary Dredge Examination.
Printed Name of Examiner ____________________________  Telephone Number ____________________________
Examiner Signature ____________________________

Additional Comments: This is not an official boarding for law enforcement purposes. It is recommended that you correct any deficiencies noted. This checklist is furnished for your information. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given or opinions expressed in connection to this examination. By accepting the Voluntary Dredge Safety Check decal you are pledging to maintain your boat and equipment to the standard of safety exhibited during this examination. Please remove the Safety Check Decal if the vessel is sold or no longer meets these requirements.

I am certifying to this examination of my vessel with full knowledge that it is provided to me as a public service without cost and I understand and agree that my receipt of a Safety Check shall not constitute or be construed as a warranty or guarantee as to either the qualification, knowledge, or skills of the operator; the seaworthiness of the vessel; or the serviceability or adequacy of any equipment on board.

Owner/Operator Signature: ____________________________  Date: ____________________________
PERSONAL FLATION DEVICES (PFD)

While wearing a PFD is only mandatory in Alaska for children under 13 years old, using a PFD while working on the deck of a dredge is highly encouraged. For information about PFD styles that have been tested and reviewed by commercial fishermen for ease of wear while working, visit www.livetobesalty.org.

![PFDs That Work](image)

Researchers from the NIOSH Alaska Pacific Office asked commercial fishermen from 4 gear groups (crabbers, trawlers, longliners, gillnetters) to rate the comfort and acceptability of six modern personal flotation devices (PFDs). About 200 fishermen evaluated various PFDs for one month while working on deck so that wearable PFDs could be identified.

Fishermen evaluated inflatable PFDs and foam PFDs that were either integrated into their rain gear or were worn in addition to rain gear. Since deck work and fishing season varies for each gear group, fishermen had different preferences. Each gear group identified PFDs that are comfortable and easy to wear and are currently available for sale. The gear group specific results can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fishing.

The key to finding the proper PFD is to try on many to make sure they will work for the specific activities related to your type of fishing. Working on crowded decks and in close proximity to gear make it vitally important that a PFD not become a snagging hazard. Fishermen who work in colder weather may prefer a PFD with more foam padding for insulation against the weather.

![Regatta Fisheners: Children with Flotation](image)

![NIOSH researchers teach gillnet fishermen about their inflatable PFDs](image)

![Crab fishermen in Dutch Harbor try on two different inflatable PFDs](image)

**Inflatable PFDs**
- Slim, lighter weight
- Higher maintenance
- Must purchase re-arm kits
- Must be worn over rain gear
- Slightly more expensive

**Foam PFDs**
- Thicker, sometimes heavier
- Low maintenance
- No accessories needed
- Can be worn under rain gear
- Typically lower cost
**POLLUTION AND FUEL SPILLS**
During vessel refueling, be sure to prevent spills into surface waters or to groundwater. Clean all spills with materials such as sorbent pads and booms.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has two 20-foot response Conex’s with spill prevention and response materials available located at the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities site north of the City Airfield.

Contact for access:
Evan Booth
Ph 907-443-3411
Alt Ph 907-304-1297
http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/lra/inventory/nome.pdf

If pollutants (oil, diesel, chemicals) are spilled into the water or if sheening is observed, YOU MUST notify: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservations at 1-800-478-9300 and The National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 or 1-202-267-2675
Online at http://cgmix.uscg.mil/NRC/

**BOATING SAFETY**
Dredge operators do not have exclusive access to the waters offshore of Nome Harbor. Small and slow-moving suction dredges present a navigational hazard to the wide variety of vessel traffic off the coast of Nome as well as to other activities such as fishing. Know and follow all U.S. Coast Guard and Nome Harbor rules and regulations. Respect fishermen and other offshore users.

Most boating fatalities in Alaska result from drowning in cold water while not wearing a life jacket. Cold water immersion can kill in several ways, and most people die long before they become hypothermic. The Alaska Boater’s Handbook can provide additional, Alaska-specific information concerning, but not limited to:

- Federal and State safety requirements and equipment
- Registration requirements and how-to’s
- Additional boating laws
- Boat capacity, loading, and stability
- Navigation rules
- Communication
- Emergencies
- The Alaska Boater’s Handbook

Contact:
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Office of Boating Safety
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565
Ph 907-269-8705, Cell 907-947-6421
Fax 907-269-8701
Website http://www.alaskaboatingsafety.org/
DIVER SAFETY
If you have never used suction dredging equipment in Alaska, get trained properly and safely operate the equipment. One miner died offshore of Nome while mining in 2011. A common method of underwater dredging is through the use of Hookah diving. This technique uses surface-supplied air generated by a motor and compressor for diving in a small area at relatively shallow depths. Scuba diving certification is recommended for safe diving practices, skills, and knowledge.

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA)
AMSEA is a source of specialized marine safety and dive safety awareness training, but they are not a dive certification organization. AMSEA:
- Offers training nationwide, including dive awareness training, see website calendar for schedule or call to set up a workshop. [http://www.amsea.org/calendar.html](http://www.amsea.org/calendar.html)
- Their education program *Defensive Diving: What Every Tender Should Know About Dive Harvest Safety* introduces dive tenders to vessel safety, basic dive operations, and dive emergencies. It is available for $20 plus shipping.

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA)
2924 Halibut Point Road
Sitka, AK 99835
Phone 907-747-3287, Fax 907-747-3259
Website [http://amsea.org/index.html](http://amsea.org/index.html)

Center for Disease Control's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
NIOSH also has pertinent information on mine and commercial fishing safety.

Commercial Fishing Safety [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fishing/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fishing/)

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Jennifer Lincoln
4230 University Drive, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99508
Ph 907-271-2382
Email [JLincoln@cdc.gov](mailto:JLincoln@cdc.gov)
Website [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/)

Divers Alert Network (DAN)
DAN is a nonprofit, dive safety organization. DAN's mission is to help divers in need of medical emergency assistance and to promote dive safety through research, education, products, and services.

Divers Alert Network (DAN)
6 West Colony Place
Durham, NC 27705 USA
Phone
- Diving Emergencies (Remember: Call local EMS first, then DAN!) 919-684-9111
- Nonemergency medical questions 800-446-2671 or 919-684-2948, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (ET)
- All other inquiries 800-446-2671 or 919-684-2948
Website [http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/](http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/)
Cold Water Safety and Survival for Gold Divers and Dredgers

Classes will be offered on an on-demand basis.
Please call if you are interested in organizing a session.

This hands-on safety training is designed for gold divers and dredge operators. Presentations and lots of hands-on practice on the following topics are covered:

- Seven Steps to Survival – emergency priorities, personal survival and “go” kits
- Cold water survival skills – “Stay Rules,” HELP and Huddle practice
- Cold water near drowning
- Hypothermia prevention and treatment
- Flotation: use and care of immersion suits and PFD choice and maintenance
- Location: emergency beacons - EPIRBs, PLBs & man overboard prevention/response, MAYDAYS and radio use
- Firefighting
- Flooding and damage control
- Vessel stability
- Crew safety orientations and station bills – who does what in an emergency?
- Defensive diving
- Dive tender duties
- Dive hazards
- Dive emergencies and treatment

Pre-registration required

Call: AMSEA 907-747-3287
EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Alaska State Troopers                  Nome Police
P.O. Box 1050                          102 Bypass Road
Nome, Alaska 99762                    Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5525 or                     Ph 907-443-5262
Ph 907-443-2835                        Fax 907-443-2266

US Coast Guard Sector Anchorage Command Center (24/7) VHF 16 or 907-428-4100

City of Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department http://www.nomealaska.org/department/index.php?IDD=4-0

Diver Alert Network (DAN)
- DAN Emergency Hotline 919-684-9111 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist with medical emergencies and to facilitate medical evacuation services.
- DAN also provides a Medical Information Line 919-684-2948 during normal business hours for non-emergency questions.

ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION NOME CHAPTER

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) Nome Chapter meets at noon at the Polar Café the first Friday of each month during the winter and occasionally during the summer.

AMA Website http://www.alaskaminers.org/
Meeting location
Polar Café
225 East Front Street
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5191

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations in Nome are limited. Most of the beaches around Nome are privately owned and explicit and prior permission is needed. Adhere to all trespassing and no camping signage. See the section concerning private land owners for their contact information.

- Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau’s Places to Stay
  http://www.visitnomealaska.com/places-to-stay-in-nome.html
- Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau Relocation Guide
  http://www.visitnomealaska.com/relocation-guide.html

Salmon Lake Campground
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nome Field Station maintains Salmon Lake Campground, which is the only designated public campground on Nome’s road-system. The campground is located approximately 40 miles north of Nome on the Kougarok Road. The campground offers six campsites with fire pits and picnic tables, a natural boat launch at Salmon Lake, and an outhouse. Depending on road conditions, the campground is open from late June through mid October.
THERE ARE NO PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL CAMPGROUNDS IN NOME.

NOME COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Copies of the Nome phonebook are often available at the post office. An expanded community resource guide is published here: http://www.kawerak.org/forms/admin/Nome%20Resource%20Guide.pdf

Nome Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 250
Nome, Alaska 99762
Ph 907-443-3879
Email visit@mynomealaska.com

Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau
301 Front Street
Nome, Alaska 99762
Ph 907-443-6555, Fax 907-443-5832
Email visit@mynomealaska.com
Website http://www.visitnomealaska.com/index.html
Hours
• Memorial Day - August 31
  Weekdays: 8:00am - 7:00pm
  Weekends: 10:00am - 6:00pm
• Winter
  Weekdays: 9:00am - 5:00pm
  Weekends: Closed

U.S. Post Office
113 W Front St.
Nome, AK 99762-9800
Ph 907-443-2401
Hours
• Weekdays 9:00am – 5:00pm
• Weekend Closed

Norton Sound Regional Hospital
306 West 5th Avenue
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-3311 / 888-559-3311
Website http://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/Divisions/Hospital-Services
City of Nome Swimming Pool
Nome Beltz Jr./Sr. High School
2920 B Nome-Teller Highway
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5717
Email skeenev@nomealaska.org
Website http://www.nomealaska.org/department/division.php?fDD=16-75

City of Nome Kegoayah Kozga Library
223 Front Street
Address: P.O. Box 1168
Ph 907-443-6628
Email library@nomealaska.org
Website http://www.nomealaska.org/department/?fDD=9-0
Hours
- Monday – Thursday Noon - 8:00 pm
- Friday – Saturday Noon - 6:00 pm
- Closed Sundays and Official Holidays

City of Nome Recreation Center
208 East 6th Avenue
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5431
Website http://www.nomealaska.org/department/division.php?fDD=16-74
Hours
- Weekdays 5:30am – 10:00pm
- Saturday: 12pm-8pm
- Sunday: 2pm-10pm

The following businesses were listed based on available information. For additional information see:

- Nome Chamber of Commerce Member List 2012
  http://www.visitnomealaska.com/chamberpdfweb.pdf

MINING RELATED COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Nome Gold Alaska Corporation
P.O. Box 1718
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-387-0308
Fax 907-387-0309

GRC - General Refining Corporation
Ken Hughes, Nome Representative
112 Front St. Suite 109
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-304-2175
Ph 800-721-3681
Website: http://www.generalrefining.com/about/alaska-nome.php

Alaska Mining and Diving
3222 Commercial Drive
Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph 907-277-1741
Service 907-279-6113
Fax: 907-279-6398
Toll-Free (inside Alaska Only): 800-478-3444
Email sales@akmining.com
Website http://www.akmining.com/mining.htm
GROCERY AND CONVENIENCE STORES

Alaska Commercial Company
Mile 1 Nome Teller Highway
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-2243

Nome Liquor
303 Front Street
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5461

Nome Trading Company
1008 East Front Street
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-4856

Bonanza Express
400 Bering Street
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5526
Website
https://www.snc.org/business-operations/petroleum

Hanson’s/Safeway
415 Bering Street
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-5454

SPORTING GOODS / HARDWARE STORES

There are no designated mining supply stores in Nome. There are several vendors that sell gold pans, classifiers, sniffer bottles and metal detectors. There are also hardware stores that carry general hardware supplies, PVC fittings, hoses, etc.

Alaska Commercial Company
Mile 1 Nome Teller Highway
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-2243

Nome Outfitters
120 West 1st Avenue
Nome, AK 99762
Ph 907-443-2880

Nome Trading Company
1008 East Front Street
Nome, AK 99672
Ph 907-443-4856
Fax 907-443-4708

TAXI SERVICE / VEHICLE RENTAL

Checker Cab, Inc.
310 East 4th Avenue
Ph 907-443-5211

Dredge no. 7 Inn – car rental for guests only
1700 Teller Highway
Nome, Alaska 99762
Ph 907-304-1270
Fax 907-443-5851
Website https://www.dredge7inn.com/

E-Z Transportation (taxi service)
Ph 907-443-3000

Stampede Vehicle Rentals (Aurora Inn)
Ph 907-443-3838 / 800-354-4606
Website http://www.aurorainnome.com/Stampede.htm

Mr. Kab
Ph 907-443-6000

TRASH REMOVAL

Andersen Services
Ph 907-443-5590