

May 2012

# **NOME DREDGERS RESOURCE GUIDE**

A quick guide for 2012 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 2012 IS MAY 30.**

**NO APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2012 MINING SEASON WILL BE ACCEPTED  
FOR THESE AREAS AFTER THAT DATE.**

## GENERAL

### NOME

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

- Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau <http://www.visitnomealaska.com/index.html>
- City of Nome <http://www.nomealaska.org/>
- *The Nome Nugget* <http://www.nomenugget.net/>

### NOME OFFSHORE PUBLIC MINING AREA DREDGING

Suction dredging is a popular form of recovering gold from placer streams and offshore areas. 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.

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.



- Suction Dredging Fact Sheet [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine\\_fs/suctiond.pdf](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/suctiond.pdf)
- Other DNR mining fact sheets <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/>
- Nome Mining homepage and Notice to the Public Interested in Mining Offshore of Nome, Alaska <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/>
- Nome Beach Public Mining Area Stipulations <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/NomeRecareastipulations.pdf>
- West Nome Beach Public Mining Area Map <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/WestNomeBeachPublicMiningArea.pdf>

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

Anchorage PIC  
Robert T. Atwood Building  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 horse power 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.
- 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.

#### East Beach Public Mining Area

- Suction dredge miners will be limited to eight-inch or less nozzles with no more than 46 horse power pump engines. These conditions and limitations have been in place for this area for several years now.
- Miners must maintain a minimum 800 feet distance between dredges. The first miner on site establishes his/her 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.



### **Both East and West Nome Beach Public Mining Areas**

- 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.
- 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. Avoid submerged claims. All of the uplands at Nome are 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 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.)
- Miners must maintain a 300 foot separation from any part of a set net; if your operation is mechanical or uses an eight inch or larger nozzle you must maintain 500 feet from set nets.
- All mining is prohibited year-round within 0.5 miles of any river mouth.
- Operations with a 10 inch or larger nozzle or any mechanical operation may not mine within one mile of a river mouth between June 1 and July 15. Both before and after this six week period, mining may occur between the one mile buffer and 0.5 mile buffer.
- Again, no mining is ever allowed at any time within the 0.5 mile buffer of any river mouth.
- 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.

### **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 within a lease area without an operator authorization from the lease holder that has been approved by DNR.

- 2011 Nome Offshore Mining Lease Sale Tract Location Map  
[http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/Nome\\_Offshore\\_Overview.pdf](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/Nome_Offshore_Overview.pdf)
- 2011 Nome Offshore Lease Coordinates  
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/nome/2011NomeOffshoreLeaseCoordinates.pdf>

### **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.



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**Annual Placer Mining Application**

An Annual Placer Mining Application (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) 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.
- One may not dredge within one half-mile of any river mouth, and operations with a 10 inch or larger nozzle or any mechanical operation may not mine within one mile of a river mouth between June 1 and July 15. Both before and after this six week period, mining may occur between the one mile buffer and 0.5 mile buffer. Again, no mining is ever allowed at any time within the 0.5 mile buffer of any river mouth.
- APMA Fact Sheet [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine\\_fs/apmathru.pdf](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/apmathru.pdf)
- 2012 APMA Suction Dredging Forms <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/12apma/suction.htm>

Contact:

Division of Mining, Land and Water  
55 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 900B  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577  
Kerwin Krause  
Ph 907-269-8652 Fax 907-269-8647  
Email [kerwin.krause@alaska.gov](mailto:kerwin.krause@alaska.gov)

Division of Mining, Land and Water  
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Ph 907-451-2774  
Fax 907-451-2703

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.

- It is revocable without cause.



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## 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.

#### Contact:

Bill Morris and Laura Jacobs

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Habitat

1300 College Road

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Ph 907-459-7289

Fax 907-459-7303

Email [william.morris@alaska.gov](mailto:william.morris@alaska.gov)

Email [laura.jacobs@alaska.gov](mailto:laura.jacobs@alaska.gov)

Website <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=habitatregulations.prohibited>

## Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

### Water Quality

- A Wastewater Discharge permit is required for dredging. A copy of the permit must be kept on the dredge.
- Suction dredges with intake nozzle diameters less than or equal to 10 inches can be covered under a general permit:
  - Suction dredges with intake nozzle diameters larger than six inches and less than or equal to 10 inches or with pump engines greater than 18 horsepower, must keep daily records of turbidity monitoring and submit an annual report to DEC before January 31.
- Suction dredges with intake nozzle diameters greater than 10 inches, excavators, or similar equipment are covered by an individual permit with a separate application process.
- All suction dredges:
  - Avoid dredging of concentrated silt and clay that creates significant turbidity.
  - Do not mine when sea ice is present.
  - Do not mine within 500 feet of streams where anadromous fish are spawning or where eggs are present.

#### 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](mailto:nicholas.dallman@alaska.gov)

Website <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/index.htm>



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### **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  
Website <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/gps.htm>

### **ADDITIONAL DEC INFORMATION AND PERMITS**

Additional safety and permit information is pertinent to Nome operations. 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.

#### **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.

#### **Solid waste, food service, sewage, and drinking water**

All of the individuals below share this agency and address:

Department of Environmental Conservation  
610 University Ave  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Website <http://dec.alaska.gov/index.htm>

If you set up a remote base camp of operations, you may need a solid waste permit for your domestic waste.

Contact:

Ken Spiers  
Ph 907-451-2134  
Email [james.spiers@alaska.gov](mailto:james.spiers@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](mailto:charlecia.foster@alaska.gov)

Website

[http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/Food/Temp\\_Camp\\_Home.html](http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/Food/Temp_Camp_Home.html)

Camp serving 25+ (regular camp food service permit)

Contact:

John Bunten

Ph 907-451-2112

Email [john.bunten@alaska.gov](mailto:john.bunten@alaska.gov)

Website

[http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/forms/forms\\_home.html](http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/forms/forms_home.html)

Sewage disposal

Contact:

Marie Klingman

Ph 907-451-2101

Email [marie.klingman@alaska.gov](mailto:marie.klingman@alaska.gov)

Drinking water

Contact:

Lee Johnson

Ph 907-451-2179

Email [lee.johnson@alaska.gov](mailto:lee.johnson@alaska.gov)

Website

<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/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. 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  
<http://www.tax.alaska.gov//programs/programs/index.aspx?60610>

Contact:

Isabell Blackwell

Department of Revenue Tax Division

550 W 7th Ave, Ste 500

Anchorage, AK 99501-3566

Ph (907) 269-6696

Email [isabell.blackwell@alaska.gov](mailto:isabell.blackwell@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 removed from the mining area. 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](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. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 900B  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577  
Bill Cole  
Ph 907-269-8648  
Fax 907-269-8647  
Email [bill.cole@alaska.gov](mailto:bill.cole@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 must also file an annual affidavit of labor and pay annual rent.

- Annual Rental Fact Sheet [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine\\_fs/annualre.pdf](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/annualre.pdf)
- Annual Labor Fact Sheet [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine\\_fs/annualla.pdf](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 <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 F&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 (eg. excavator with a wash plant on a barge or vessel), you must maintain a 500 foot buffer from set nets.



- All mining is prohibited year-round within 0.5 miles of any river mouth.
- Operations with a 10 inch or larger nozzle or any mechanical operation may not mine within one mile of a river mouth between June 1 and July 15. Both before and after this six week period, mining may occur between the one mile buffer and 0.5 mile buffer.
- Again, no mining is ever allowed at any time within the 0.5 mile buffer of any river mouth.

If a mining operator damages a set net, immediately report the damage to the Department of Fish and Game at 907-443-5167 and Department of Natural Resources at 907-269-8652.

## 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 2012 Sport Fishing regulations (4/5/2012 – 4/14/2013)  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/PDFs/ayk/aykNW.pdf>

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 with the majority of it held by various Alaska Native Corporations and the Nome Gold Alaska Corporation. 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 both the 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 <http://www.visitnomealaska.com/nome-gold-dredging.html> and the individual private land owners listed here.

King Island Native Corporation  
PO Box 992  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-5494  
Website  
<http://www.kingislandnative.com>

City of Nome  
102 Division Street  
P.O. Box 281  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-6663  
Email [cteneyck@nomealaska.org](mailto:cteneyck@nomealaska.org)  
Website <http://www.nomealaska.org/>



**Bering Straits Native Corporation**

110 Front Street, Suite 300

Nome, AK 99762

Ph 907-443-5252

Ph 800-478-5079

Fax 907-443-2985

Email [info@beringstraits.com](mailto:info@beringstraits.com)

Website <http://www.beringstraits.com/>

**Nome Gold Alaska Corporation**

P.O. Box 1718

Nome, AK 99762

Tel: 907 387 0308

Fax: 907 387 0309

Email: [contact@nome-gold.com](mailto:contact@nome-gold.com)

Website [http:// nome-gold.com](http://nome-gold.com)

**Sitnasuak Native Corporation**

400 Bering St

Nome, AK 99762

Ph 907-387-1200

Toll Free 877-443-2632

Fax 907-443-3063

Exec Office Ph 907-387-0496

Website <http://www.snc.org/>

## 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.

- Investigate That Claim Before You Buy [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine\\_fs/investig.pdf](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/investig.pdf)

## 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. Familiarize yourself with the Port Tariff Rules and Regulations, Harbor Moorage Policy, and harbor/river permit requirements. Vessel permits must be obtained in advance prior to launching. Contact the Harbor Master’s Office for further information.

- Tariff Rules and Regulations [http://www.nomealaska.org/egov/docs/1334853070\\_948181.pdf](http://www.nomealaska.org/egov/docs/1334853070_948181.pdf)
- Fact Sheet [http://www.nomealaska.org/egov/docs/1335221176\\_180786.pdf](http://www.nomealaska.org/egov/docs/1335221176_180786.pdf)
- Docking Permit Rates [http://www.nomealaska.org/egov/docs/1334189056\\_221221.pdf](http://www.nomealaska.org/egov/docs/1334189056_221221.pdf)

Contact:

Port of Nome

P.O. Box 281

307 Belmont Street

Nome, AK 99762

Ph 907-443-6619

Email [port@nomealaska.org](mailto:port@nomealaska.org)

Website <http://www.nomealaska.org/department/?fDD=14-0>



## 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>

### 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:

U.S. Coast Guard  
LT William C. Albright  
Coast Guard Sector Anchorage  
510 L St., Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Ph 907-271-6733  
Email [William.C.Albright@uscg.mil](mailto:William.C.Albright@uscg.mil)

### REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The following table highlights Alaska’s state and federal requirements for vessel safety equipment.



<b>ALASKA VESSEL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Boats Under 16 Feet</b>	<b>Boats 16 feet to less than 26 feet</b>	<b>Boats 26 feet to less than 40 feet</b>	<b>Boats 40 feet to less than 65 feet</b>
<b>Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)</b>	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.			
<b>Throwable Devices (Type IV)</b>	Recommended but not mandatory.	Except for canoes and kayaks, one USCG- approved Type IV (seat cushion or throw ring) device must be carried.		
<b>Sound Producing Devices</b>	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.			Boats 39.4 feet (12 meters) or more in length must carry on board a whistle or horn.
<b>Visual Distress Signals</b>	USCG- approved night signals required between sunset and sunrise.	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 <u>not</u> required to carry day signals. <i>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.</i>		
<b>Fire Extinguishers</b>	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.	At least two B-I or one B-II USCG- approved fire extinguishers.	At least three B-I or one B-I and one B-II USCG-approved fire extinguishers.	
<b>Navigation Lights</b>	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.			
<b>Backfire Flame Arresters</b>	One USCG-approved backfire control device on each carburetor of all inboard gasoline engines.			
<b>Ventilation</b>	Boats with permanently installed engines, closed compartments or permanent fuel tanks must have efficient natural or mechanical ventilation.			
<b>Registration</b>	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.			



## **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.

If pollutants (oil, diesel, chemicals) are spilled into the water or if sheening is observed, please notify:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation at 1-800-478-9300  
and  
The National Response Center  
1-800-424-8802  
Online reporting tool <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html>

## **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  
<http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/parks/boating/pdf/AlaskaBoater%27sHandbook082010.pdf>

### **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.
- 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.

**A customized marine and dive safety awareness program is scheduled in Nome, AK on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 8am-5pm at the University meeting room next to the Aurora Hotel. Contact AMSEA for the required preregistration.**

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA)  
2924 Halibut Point Road  
Sitka, AK 99835  
Ph 907-747-3287  
Fax 907-747-3259  
Website <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/>
- Office of Mine Safety and Health Research Information <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/>

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/>

### **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

- Ph
- 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/>



## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Alaska State Troopers  
P.O. Box 1050  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
907-443-5525 or  
907-443-2835

Nome Police  
102 Bypass Road  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-5262  
Fax 907-443-2266

City of Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department  
<http://www.nomealaska.org/department/index.php?fDD=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 nonemergency 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.

Contact:  
Tom Sparks, BLM Nome Field Station  
PO Box 925  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-2177; Fax 907-443-3611  
Website <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/nome.html>



## NOME COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Copies of the Nome phonebook are often available at the post office.

Nome Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 250  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
Ph 907-443-3879

Email [visit@mynomealaska.com](mailto:visit@mynomealaska.com)

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

Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau  
301 Front Street  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
Ph 907-443-6555  
Fax 907-443-5832

Email [visit@mynomealaska.com](mailto: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

Hours

- Weekdays  
9:00am – 5:00pm
- Weekend  
Closed

Norton Sound Regional Hospital  
306 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-3311 / 888-559-3311

Website

<http://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/index.html>

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>

City of Nome Swimming Pool  
Nome Beltz Jr./Sr. High School  
2920 B Nome-Teller Highway  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-5717

Email [skeeney@nomealaska.org](mailto:skeeney@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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> 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
- Weekends  
Closed May 26 through September



## MINING RELATED COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Nome Gold Alaska Corporation      Alaska Mining and Diving  
P.O. Box 1718                              3222 Commercial Drive  
Nome, AK 99762                          Anchorage, AK 99501  
Ph 907-387-0308                          Ph 907-277-1741  
Fax 907-387-0309                          Service 907-279-6113  
Email [contact@nome-gold.com](mailto:contact@nome-gold.com)              Fax: 907-279-6398  
Website <http://nome-gold.com/>              Toll-Free (inside Alaska Only): 800-478-3444  
Email [sales@akmining.com](mailto:sales@akmining.com)  
Website  
<http://www.akmining.com/mine/bering sea gold the nome gold rush.htm>

## GROCERY AND CONVENIENCE STORES

Alaska Commercial Company              Nome Liquor  
Mile 1 Nome Teller Highway              303 Front Street  
Nome, AK 99762                              Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-2243                              Ph 907-443-5461  
Website <http://acvaluecenter.com/index.shtml>

Bonanza Express  
400 Bering Street  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-5526  
Website

<http://www.snc.org/company-profile/subsidiaries>

Nome Trading Company  
1008 East Front Street  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-4856  
Website <http://www.nometrading.com/>

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  
Website

<http://acvaluecenter.com/index.shtml>

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

Nome Outfitters  
120 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-2880

Nome Trading Company  
1008 East Front Street  
Nome, AK 99762  
Ph 907-443-4856  
Fax 907-443-4708  
Website

<http://www.nometrading.com/>



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## **TAXI SERVICE / VEHICLE RENTALS**

Checker Cab, Inc.  
310 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ph 907-443-5211

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

Mr. Kab  
Ph 907-443-6000

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

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/>

