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## Press Release

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### **Nome Poised to Realize Economic Benefits from Offshore Mining Industry**

The Alaska Division of Economic Development's *Nome Suction Dredge Study* has concluded that offshore mining has financially benefited the City of Nome and its residents and will continue to play role in the region's future. The study analyzed the impact of the offshore mining industry's effect on the city's economy, infrastructure, and public services.

"Offshore mining presents the city and mining community an excellent opportunity to work together," said Britteny Cioni-Haywood, acting director of the Division of Economic Development, "cooperation can mitigate potential negative impacts so that both the city and the industry are able to realize the economic benefits of offshore mining."

The study identifies benefits and challenges that can be balanced by the community and industry for regional economic growth. Specifically, the report recommends that the City of Nome work to upgrade and add infrastructure. The report also recommends that the mining industry work to minimize operational hazards and to ensure Nome's public spaces are readily accessible to all residents. The study asserts that resource depletion in Nome will eventually lessen recreational interest in the offshore public mining areas, but the economically viable placer gold found in large offshore lease tracts will most likely sustain a long-term commercial mining industry.

The data used in the study originated from a survey conducted by the Alaska Division of Economic Development in preparation of the 2013 *Alaska's Mineral Industry Report* and from the *Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska* survey of permit holders for suction dredge mining in the Nome region. The *Nome Section Dredge Study* can be downloaded at:

<http://commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/Portals/6/pub/NomeSuctionDredgeStudy.pdf>.

The mission of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) is to promote a healthy economy, support strong communities, and protect consumers in Alaska. The Division of Economic Development is a section within the DCCED that supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through business assistance, financing, promotion, and public policy. For additional information about DCCED divisions and corporate agencies, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov](http://commerce.alaska.gov).

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