

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Headquarters Office
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
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CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark
Norton Sound Area Manager & Asst. Area Manager
(907) 443-5167 (800) 560-2271

COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO REOPEN IN NORTON SOUND

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 1, 2, and 5, the Nome, Golovin and Shaktoolik Subdistricts beginning the evening of July 15.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open in Golovin and Shaktoolik Subdistricts from 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 15 until 6 p.m. Thursday, July 16. In Nome Subdistrict commercial salmon fishing will be open from 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 15 until 9 p.m. Thursday, July 16. In the Nome, Golovin and Shaktoolik Subdistricts permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 4 hours from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday, July 16 in Norton Sound Subdistricts 3, 4 and 6, the Elim, Norton Bay and Unalakleet Subdistricts with gillnets restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 100 fathoms in aggregate length.

Permit holders must be in possession of a 2020 Norton Sound commercial salmon permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. All crewmembers must have a 2020 commercial crewmember's license or a 2020 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit. For example, a 2020 Norton Sound commercial crab permit card can substitute for a crewmember's license.

Dropping water levels in Norton Sound have allowed almost all escapement counting projects to begin operations.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts:

North River: 213 kings, 465 chums, 360,000 pinks
Shaktoolik River: 372 kings, 2,000 chums, 752,000 pinks
Ungalik River: 39 kings, 3,800 chums, 247,000 pinks
Kwiniuk River: 291 kings, 3,200 chums, 600,000 pinks, 42 sockeyes
Fish River: 12 kings, 1,600 chums, 620,000 pinks, 18 sockeyes.
Solomon River: 91 chums, 77,000 pinks, 14 sockeyes, 6 silvers
Bonanza River: 7 kings, 865 chums, 88,000 pinks, 10 sockeyes
Eldorado River: 9 kings, 4,000 chums, 59,000 pinks, 9 sockeyes, 3 silvers
Nome River: 4 kings, 363 chums, 460,000 pinks, 105 sockeyes
Pilgrim River: 25 kings, 907 chums, 3,000 pinks, 2,900 sockeyes

The first five projects listed above are counting tower projects and the other counting projects are weirs.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>