

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 48 hours in Subdistricts 1 and 2, the Nome and Golovin Subdistricts beginning the evening of July 24. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller. Golovin Subdistrict will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday and Nome Subdistrict will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 9 p.m. Friday until 9 p.m. Sunday.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open in Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts for 24 hours from 6 p.m. Saturday, July 25 until 6 p.m. Sunday, July 26. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller. On July 25, the department will shift to silver salmon management in Subdistricts 5 and 6 and this period will test early silver run strength.

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.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts:

North River: 720 kings, 750 chums, 555,000 pinks, 63 sockeyes, 3 silvers
Shaktoolik River: 850 kings, 6,000 chums, 1.7 million pinks, 30 sockeyes, 24 silvers
Ungalik River: 140 kings, 6,700 chums, 640,000 pinks, 220 sockeyes, 80 silvers
Kwiniuk River: 400 kings, 4,400 chums, 1.2 million pinks, 78 sockeyes, 39 silvers
Fish River: 12 kings, 5,000 chums, 1.4 million pinks, 54 sockeyes. No counting has occurred since July 15.
Solomon River: 270 chums, 225,000 pinks, 27 sockeyes, 12 silvers
Bonanza River: 15 kings, 1,800 chums, 160,000 pinks, 7 sockeyes, 1 silver
Eldorado River: 19 kings, 8,700 chums, 117,000 pinks, 32 sockeyes, 5 silvers
Nome River: 6 kings, 920 chums, 940,000 pinks, 130 sockeyes, 34 silvers
Snake River: 260 chums, 175,000 pinks, 74 sockeyes, 1 silver
Pilgrim River: 37 kings, 1,700 chums, 11,000 pinks, 5,650 sockeyes

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/>