

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: August 6, 2020*

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## **COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 48 hours in Subdistricts 1, 2, 3 and 4 the Nome, Golovin, Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts beginning Friday evening, August 7. 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, Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts 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, August 8 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 9. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Silver salmon escapement has been a bit below average in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet, but farther to the north silver salmon escapement has been at the historical average for the first week of August. The silver catches in last week's fishing period were much lower than expected in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet and with the lower escapement there the department is only allowing a 24-hour fishing period in southern Norton Sound.

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 any 2020 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit can substitute for a crewmember's license.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts:

North River: 1,044 kings, 900 chums, 650,000 pinks, 110 sockeyes, 300 silvers  
Shaktoolik River: 950 kings, 8,600 chums, 1.9 million pinks, 75 sockeyes, 630 silvers  
Ungalik River: 135 kings, 7,700 chums, 950,000 pinks, 220 sockeyes, 880 silvers  
Kwiniuk River: 414 kings, 4,900 chums, 1.7 million pinks, 87 sockeyes, 1,230 silvers  
Fish River: 72 kings, 8,200 chums, 2.5 million pinks, 2,330 silvers  
Solomon River: 4 kings, 680 chums, 420,000 pinks, 56 sockeyes, 88 silvers  
Nome River: 8 kings, 1,900 chums, 1.9 million pinks, 166 sockeyes, 235 silvers  
Snake River: 4 kings, 530 chums, 330,000 pinks, 160 sockeyes, 50 silvers  
Pilgrim River: 58 kings, 4,400 chums, 90,000 pinks, 11,200 sockeyes, 166 silvers

## **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/>