

**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](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)

## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: August 17, 2020*

**CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark**

**Norton Sound Area Manager & Asst. Area Manager  
(907) 443-5167 (800) 560-2271**

### **COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN NOME, GOLOVIN AND ELIM**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 48 hours in Subdistricts 1, 2, and 3 the Nome, Golovin and Elim Subdistricts beginning Tuesday evening, August 18. 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 and Elim Subdistricts will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 6 p.m. Tuesday until 6 p.m. Thursday and Nome Subdistrict will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 9 p.m. Tuesday until 9 p.m. Thursday.

Last week's 48-hour fishing period had an above average silver catch in Nome, an average catch in Golovin and a below average catch in Elim. Although the Elim silver catch was below average, and the silver escapement counts at Kwiniuk River are below average the silver counts at Kwiniuk River do project the escapement goal being reached this year. The average historical midpoint of the silver run past the tower is later this week.

The silver run throughout Norton Sound has been much lower than forecast, but oddly this year the script has been flipped with a better silver run in northern Norton Sound than in southern Norton Sound. Commercial catches in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet this past weekend were well below average. Silver counts in Norton Bay, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts have been well below average and no commercial fishing is expected anytime soon unless a big improvement is seen in silver passage at the southern Norton Sound counting towers.

The cumulative escapement counts are:

North River: 800 silvers  
Shaktoolik River: 1,700 silvers  
Ungalik River: 1,200 silvers  
Inglutalik River: 1,000 silvers  
Kwiniuk River: 2,700 silvers  
Solomon River: 330 silvers  
Nome River: 500 silvers  
Snake River: 200 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/>