

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 NOME, GOLOVIN AND ELIM

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours in Subdistricts 1, 2, and 3 the Nome, Golovin and Elim Subdistricts beginning Friday evening, September 4. 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. Friday until 6 p.m. Saturday and Nome Subdistrict will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 9 p.m. Friday until 9 p.m. Saturday.

During the recent opening ending Thursday night permit holders were affected by wind and high seas but catches were above average in Nome and average in Elim. No permit holders fished in Golovin.

The weather forecast is for light winds until early Sunday and this short window of favorable conditions will allow a 24-hour commercial salmon fishing period.

Historically the escapement at the Kwiniuk, Shaktoolik and North River counting towers is well past the third-quarter point of the silver run and at the Nome and Snake River weirs the escapement is just past the midpoint of the silver run.

Subsistence fishermen have recently reported good catches of bright silvers in both southern and northern Norton Sound.

After the upcoming commercial fishing period no more commercial salmon fishing is expected and the season will close by regulation after September 7.

The cumulative escapement counts are:

North River: 1,900 silvers
Shaktoolik River: 3,900 silvers
Kwiniuk River: 5,200 silvers
Nome River: 1,300 silvers
Snake River: 1,000 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/>