

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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UPCOMING NORTON SOUND PINK SALMON COMMERCIAL FISHING PERIODS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for gillnetting for 12 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2, 3, and 4, Golovin, Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Saturday, July 24. Commercial salmon fishing will be open for gillnetting for 36 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, from 8 a.m. Saturday, July 24 until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 25. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 200 fathoms of gillnets in aggregate length.

Experimental purse seining only will be open in Subdistrict 5 and 6, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts for 16 hours on Saturday, July 24 from 8 a.m. until midnight. Purse seines must comply with stipulations outlined on the commissioner's permit and all king and chum salmon must be returned immediately to the water alive. Any king or chum salmon mortality must be donated to local villages.

Permit holders are reminded to check with the buyers to make sure there is a market for their catch. There will likely be only one buyer in many of the subdistricts so staying in close contact with the buyer is essential in case there are any capacity issues.

Here are the escapement counts:

Unalakleet River: 475 kings, 13,000 chums, 900 sockeyes, 400 silvers
North River: 700 kings, 650 chums, 240,000 pinks
Shaktoolik River: 900 kings, 7,500 chums, 500,000 pinks, 75 sockeyes, 120 silvers
Ungalik River: 320 kings, 16,000 chums, 600,000 pinks, 4,200 sockeyes
Inglutalik River: 240 kings, 2,200 chums, 160,000 pinks
Kwiniuk River: 200 kings, 3,200 chums, 24,000 pinks, 60 sockeyes, 33 silvers
Solomon River: 3 kings, 90 chums, 3,600 pinks, 5 silvers
Eldorado River: 14 kings, 4,700 chums, 4,000 pinks, 44 sockeyes, 6 silvers
Nome River: 130 chums, 2,200 pinks, 6 sockeyes
Snake River: 1 king, 210 chums, 2,200 pinks, 50 sockeyes
Pilgrim River: 8 kings, 700 chums, 230 pinks, 3,000 sockeyes, 3 silvers

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>