

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**

UPCOMING NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING PERIODS

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing will be open for 48 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 1, 2, 3, and 4, the Nome, Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts. Commercial salmon fishing will be open in Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, until 6 p.m. on Friday, July 29. In Nome Subdistrict commercial salmon fishing will be open from 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 27 until 9 p.m. Friday, July 29. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length in Subdistricts 1 through 4.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing will be open for 24 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 28 until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 29. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or smaller. Commercial salmon gillnet fishing will be open for 12 hours in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday, July 30. During Saturday's fishing period gillnets are restricted to 4 ½ inches or smaller. For both fishing periods in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet, king salmon may not be sold but can be retained for personal use.

In northern Norton Sound chum salmon escapement goals have been reached in 4 of the 5 rivers with escapement goals. In southern Norton Sound the chum salmon runs have been poorer than northern Norton Sound and the 24-hour fishing period is to test early run strength of silver salmon. Permit holders are reminded to check with the buyer to make sure there is market for their catch.

Weather has prevented most of the salmon counting projects from operating recently. Only Unalakleet and Pilgrim River floating weirs, and Eldorado and Snake River fixed-picket weirs are operational. Because of high and murky water, tower crews have been unable to see salmon passing. Clearing and calmer weather should allow most of the projects to again be operational later in the week.

Current salmon escapement in Norton Sound:

Eldorado River: 5 kings, 7,400 chums, 39,000 pinks, 16 sockeyes

Inglutalkik River: 177 kings, 5,800 chums, 35,000 pinks

Kwiniuk River: 30 kings, 9,400 chums, 400,000 pinks, 15 sockeyes

Niukluk River: 42 kings, 34,000 chums, 288,000 pinks, 880 sockeyes

Nome River: 3 kings, 700 chums, 35,000 pinks, 9 sockeyes, 21 silvers

North River: 1,119 kings, 1,100 chums, 687,000 pinks, 66 sockeyes, 93 silvers

Pilgrim River: 28 kings, 1,400 chums, 4,500 pinks, 1,100 sockeyes

Shaktoolik River: 975 kings, 13,300 chums, 1.4 million pinks, 159 sockeyes

Snake River: 3 kings, 2,100 chums, 31,000 pinks, 211 sockeyes, 1 silver

Unalakleet River: 95 kings, 6,300 chums, 315 reds, 21 silvers

Ungalik River: 747 kings, 17,000 chums, 557,000 pinks, 33 sockeyes, 800 silvers