

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing will be open for 48 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, the Golovin, Elim, Norton Bay, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts. Fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 1, until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3. Nets are restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts.

Silver salmon have exceeded chum salmon catch in the commercial harvest and the department has transitioned to management based on silver salmon. Escapement and commercial catches are lagging recent years but are within the range of harvests and escapements prior to the large runs experienced in the most recent 10-year average.

Most Norton Sound salmon escapement projects have completed operations for the season. The department thanks Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation for over two decades of operating and supporting numerous salmon counting projects throughout Norton Sound.

Subsistence set gillnet fishing in Subdistrict 1, the Nome Subdistrict, will be open to subsistence fishing 7 days per week 24 hours per day beginning at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 1. The subsistence fishing schedule has been lifted in the freshwaters of the Nome Subdistrict. Nets in fresh waters are restricted to 50 feet in length and not blocking more than ½ of any channel and restricted to 300 feet in marine waters. Additionally, beach seines are no longer permitted for subsistence fishing in the waters of the Nome Subdistrict.

Current salmon escapement in from operational projects in Norton Sound:

Kwiniuk River: 39 kings, 9,500 chums, 412,000 pinks, 18 sockeyes, 4,100 silvers

Nome River: 5 kings, 2,400 chums, 50,000 pinks, 17 sockeyes, 700 silvers

Snake River: 4 kings, 4,500 chums, 47,000 pinks, 500 sockeyes, 560 silvers