

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: July 17, 2024***

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## **COMMERCIAL FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND SUBDISTRICTS 1-2 & 4-6**

### **Commercial Salmon Fishing Periods by Subdistrict:**

#### **Nome Subdistrict 1**

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, until 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21.

#### **Golovin Subdistrict 2**

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21.

#### **Norton Bay Subdistrict 4**

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21.

#### **Shaktoolik Subdistrict 5**

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21. King salmon may be retained but not sold.

#### **Unalakleet Subdistrict 6**

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21. King salmon may be retained but not sold.

All commercial fishing periods are restricted to gillnet mesh size 6 inches or smaller. These openings will gauge early season coho salmon abundance in nearshore waters to inform future management actions.

Northern Norton Sound escapement projects are beginning to see coho salmon and projections estimate that the majority of chum salmon goals will be met. Data from the Kwiniuk River tower is projecting that chum salmon will be below the escapement goal range and Elim (Subdistrict 3) will remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

Southern Norton Sound is also seeing coho salmon at monitoring projects and chum salmon escapement is higher than 5-year averages and well above recent years. Historically, 98% of the Chinook salmon run has entered freshwater by this time and this opening is not expected to have detrimental effects on escapement.

Permit holders are reminded to ensure they have a market for their catch.

This commercial fishing period does not affect current subsistence fisheries schedules, restrictions, or closures.

Stay safe and good luck.