

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 23, 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 Wednesday, July 24, until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25.

Golovin Subdistrict 2

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25.

Norton Bay Subdistrict 4

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25.

Shaktoolik Subdistrict 5

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25. King salmon may be retained but not sold.

Unalakleet Subdistrict 6

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25. 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 seeing coho salmon numbers starting to build and chum salmon projections indicate 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 in an effort to protect chum salmon.

Coho salmon numbers are also building at monitoring projects in Southern Norton Sound and chum salmon escapement is well below the historic average at this time yet well above recent years indicating that a surplus of chum salmon beyond subsistence and escapement needs exists for a limited commercial fishery. Historically, over 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.