

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENS FRIDAY IN NOME, GOLOVIN, ELIM AND NORTON BAY SUBDISTRICTS

Commercial salmon fishing will open for 24 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 1, 2, 3, and 4, the Nome, Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts, from 6 p.m. Friday, June 21 until 6 p.m. Saturday, June 22. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Permit holders must be in possession of a 2019 Norton Sound commercial salmon permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. All crewmembers must have a 2019 commercial crewmember's license or a 2019 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit. For example, a 2019 Norton Sound commercial crab permit card can substitute for a crewmember's license.

The department forecast is for a well above average chum salmon run this year and the department will use harvest-based management until the escapement counting projects are operational. Harvest based management compares the catch from a fishing period with catches from previous years during the similar dates and takes into consideration fishing effort and weather conditions.

The first opening had weak catches of chum salmon and after this upcoming short duration commercial fishing period the department will determine if further commercial fishing time is warranted. Southern Norton Sound escapement projects are becoming operational with NSEDC crews on North, Shaktoolik and Inglutalik rivers providing data. The cooperative Unalakleet River floating weir project is expected to be fish tight by Friday evening. High water has slowed progress on getting northern Norton Sound counting projects operational, but some are expected to get running within a week.