

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTHERN NORTON SOUND

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 48 hours in Subdistricts 1, 2, 3 and 4 the Nome, Golovin, Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts beginning Wednesday evening, August 12. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller. Golovin, Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 6 p.m. Wednesday until 6 p.m. Friday and Nome Subdistrict will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 9 p.m. Wednesday until 9 p.m. Friday.

This season the silver salmon run is much lower than expected and usually the silver run is much stronger in southern Norton Sound than in northern Norton Sound. However, northern Norton Sound escapement projects have had silver counts closer to the historical average for this time of year. North River tower in Unalakleet Subdistrict has had the lowest silver passage to date in over 20 years and the Shaktoolik River tower silver passage has been well below average also. At this time no commercial fishing periods are expected until at least this weekend in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet and the next fishing period there would be expected to be 24 hours or less in length.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts:

North River: 510 silvers
Shaktoolik River: 1,000 silvers
Ungalik River: 1,000 silvers
Inglutalik River: 840 silvers
Fish River: 3,000 silvers
Solomon River: 200 silvers
Nome River: 340 silvers
Snake River: 70 silvers
Pilgrim River: 13,000 sockeyes, 180 silvers

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>