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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: June 30, 2021***

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### **CHANGES TO SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERY (Amended)**

By Board of Fisheries regulation, the King Salmon Management Plan for Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, and the Unalakleet River is in effect and from July 1 through August 10 beach seining is allowed 7 days a week unless changed by emergency order. Beginning July 1, in all waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6, salmon other than king salmon may be kept when beach seining. All king salmon caught when beach seining must be returned immediately to water unharmed. Beach seines must have a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller.

The subsistence gillnet fishing schedule remains the same through July 15 unless changed by emergency order. The marine water subsistence fishing schedule for Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts is from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Thursdays until 6:00 p.m. Saturdays. There are no gillnet mesh size restrictions. The southern boundary of the Unalakleet Subdistrict is Black Point and south of Black Point to Point Romanof subsistence fishing remains open 7 days a week with no mesh size restrictions. In the Unalakleet River the subsistence gillnet fishing schedule is from 8 a.m. Mondays until 8 p.m. Tuesdays and from 8 a.m. Fridays until 8 p.m. Saturdays. There are no gillnet mesh size restrictions.

High water has caused delays in getting the salmon escapement counting projects operational particularly in northern Norton Sound. Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) crews have been able to count salmon passage for over a week now at the Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Shaktoolik counting towers. King counts are little below average, but chum counts have been very poor. The department thanks NSEDC for operating salmon counting projects for over two decades and aiding with department counting projects in Norton Sound.

The NSEDC weir at Eldorado River and the cooperative Fish & Game, NSEDC, and BLM floating weir on Unalakleet River are now fish tight and began counting operations on June 30.

Based on poor early season salmon escapement counts the department does not expect any commercial fishing in Norton Sound this week. Here are the salmon escapement counts through Tuesday.

Inglutalik River: 60 kings

Ungalik River: 78 kings, 30 chums

Shaktoolik River: 129 kings, 45 chums, 84 pinks, 3 sockeyes

### **COVID-19**

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, subsistence fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>