

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 7, 2021

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GOLOVIN SUBDISTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENS THURSDAY

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours in Norton Sound Subdistrict 2, Golovin Subdistrict, from 6 p.m. Thursday, July 8 until 6 p.m. Friday, July 9. 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 2021 Norton Sound commercial salmon permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. All crewmembers must have a 2021 commercial crewmember's license or a 2021 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit. For example, a 2021 Norton Sound commercial crab permit card can substitute for a crewmember's license.

High water has resulted in the Fish River counting tower in Golovin Subdistrict not being operational and the commercial fishing period will help to determine chum salmon run strength in the subdistrict. The department has received reports of chum salmon jumpers in Golovin Bay. The department will compare the harvest from upcoming fishing period with historical catches from previous years to determine if there is the possibility for additional fishing openings.

Elsewhere in Norton Sound there is at least one escapement counting project operational in each subdistrict and chum salmon escapement counts are well below average through the first week of July and no commercial fishing is expected in the other subdistricts until chum salmon escapement counts improve or there is a surge of pink salmon moving into the subdistricts to allow for a pink salmon directed commercial fishing period.

Here are the escapement counts through Tuesday.

Unalakleet River: 46 kings, 445 chums, 22 pinks, 11 sockeyes

Shaktoolik River: 387 kings, 711 chums, 648 pinks, 3 sockeyes

Ungalik River: 141 kings, 381 chums, 882 pinks

Inglutalik River: 108 kings, 333 chums, 6 sockeyes

Kwiniuk River: 216 chums, 18 pinks

Eldorado River: 91 chums, 88 pinks, 6 sockeyes

Pilgrim River and Solomon River weirs are now fish-tight, but no salmon have been counted yet.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial 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/>