

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Headquarters Office
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark

**Norton Sound Area Manager & Asst. Area Manager
(907) 443-5167 (800) 560-2271**

UPCOMING NORTON SOUND PINK SALMON COMMERCIAL FISHING PERIODS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for gillnetting in Subdistricts 2 through 4, Golovin, Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts, for 12 hours from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, August 1 and for an additional 12 hours for 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, August 2.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for gillnetting for 36 hours from 8 a.m. Sunday, August 1 until 8 p.m. Monday, August 2 in Subdistricts 5 and 6, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts. For all commercial fishing periods gillnets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 200 fathoms of gillnets in aggregate length.

Permit holders are reminded to check with the buyers to make sure there is market for their catch. There may be only one buyer in some of the subdistricts so staying in close contact with the buyer is essential in case there are any capacity issues.

High water has knocked out all escapement counting projects. The floating weirs at Unalakleet and Pilgrim will likely be the first projects to resume counting once the water levels drop. Unfortunately, with the expected rainy weather continuing through the weekend counting will likely not resume until at least next week.

The commercial harvest of over 250,000 pink salmon this year was a record harvest for an odd-numbered year and the best harvest since 1998, but the commercial harvest of 4,500 chum salmon was the lowest since 2005. During the last fishing period more silver salmon were caught than chum salmon and there is the possibility of a silver salmon opening in some subdistricts later next week.

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/>