

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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UPCOMING CHANGES TO NORTON SOUND SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERY

Effective, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 11, the marine waters of Subdistrict 1, Nome Subdistrict, are open to subsistence fishing 7 days a week until further notice.

The subsistence gillnet fishing schedule in the Nome Subdistrict fresh-water subsistence areas remains from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays through 6:00 p.m. Mondays throughout August unless closed by emergency order. Check the Nome Subdistrict subsistence salmon permit for the fresh-water areas open to gillnet fishing.

Beach seining for salmon in Subdistricts 5 and 6, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, is no longer be allowed after August 10. In Nome Subdistrict, beach seining for salmon is no longer allowed after August 15.

Subsistence gillnet fishing remains open 7 days a week in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts with no mesh size restrictions.

The recent 24-hour commercial fishing period that ended Monday evening in Norton Sound had a well below average silver catch. In Nome 218 silvers were caught by 6 permit holders; in Golovin 80 silvers were caught by 4 permit holders; in Elim 288 silvers were caught by 10 permit holders; in Norton Bay 89 silvers were caught by 4 permit holders; in Shatoolik 804 silvers were caught by 15 permit holders and in Unalakleet 457 silvers were caught by 27 permit holders.

To date the silver run looks like last year with the early season commercial harvests indicating a weak run and silvers averaging less than 6 pounds. Except for the floating weir on Pilgrim River, all salmon escapement counting projects are still unable to operate because of the high-water levels. The department will compare catches in the commercial fishery with historical catches from the same time to determine future openings, and with the poor silver catches to date the next opening will likely be early next week to see if there is any improvement in the silver run.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial and subsistence fishing are considered essential and are part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial and subsistence fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial and subsistence fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>