

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: August 25, 2021***

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### **SILVER SALMON COMMERCIAL FISHING TO REOPEN IN NORTON SOUND**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours in Subdistricts 1—3 and 5 and 6. Golovin, Elim, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts will be open from 6 p.m. Thursday, August 26 until 6 p.m. Friday, August 27. Nome Subdistrict will open from 9 p.m. Thursday, August 26 until 9 p.m. Friday, August 27. In all subdistricts, permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Some salmon escapement counting projects in Norton Sound are starting to become operational again as water levels drop. Murky water conditions have hampered aerial surveys.

Because of lack of escapement information, the department has used harvest-based management for the commercial silver salmon fishery. Harvest-based management is when the department compares catches with previous years for the same time frame to determine if the run is better or poorer than previous years.

Commercial silver fishing periods this month had catches like last year in southern Norton Sound and lower catches than last year in northern Norton Sound. Last year the silver catches in southern Norton Sound were very poor and so far, catches in southern Norton Sound have been like last year. In northern Norton Sound the silver catches were better last year compared to southern Norton Sound but catches this year in northern Norton Sound have also been poor.

If the next opening has poor catches the department will likely not reopen commercial fishing.

### **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/>