

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
For Immediate Release: July 10, 2023

CONTACT: Kevin Clark
Norton Sound Area Manager
(907) 443-5167 (800) 560-2271

COMMERCIAL FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND SUBDISTRICTS 1-4 and 6

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin) will open to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 14. Subdistrict 1 (Nome) will open for 24 hours from 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, through 9:00 p.m. Thursday, July 13. Subdistrict 3 (Elim) will open for 24 hours from 6:00 pm Wednesday, July 12, through 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 13. These commercial fishing periods are directed chum salmon periods with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing will open in Norton Sound Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay) and Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet) for 10 hours from 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 14. These commercial fishing periods are directed pink salmon periods with gillnet mesh size restricted to 4 ½ inches or smaller. King salmon may not be sold in Subdistricts 6 and all king salmon must be recorded on the fish ticket as “personal use” at the time of delivery.

The outlook for chum salmon in the northern sections of Norton Sound is expected to be similar to last year with a harvestable surplus of chum salmon for directed commercial fishing. In southern Norton Sound, pink salmon are projected to have a harvestable surplus in excess of escapement and subsistence needs and restricting mesh size to 4 ½ inches will minimize potential impacts on weak king salmon returns. Currently, pink salmon escapement and harvest data from the most recent commercial fishery indicate that there is a low abundance of pink salmon in Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik) and the department would like to allow for additional escapement to assess run strength prior to announcing another commercial period.

Permit holders are reminded to ensure they have a market for their catch.