

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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COMMERCIAL FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND SUBDISTRICTS 1–6

In the Norton Sound District, Nome Subdistrict 1 will open for two 48-hour periods from 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 7, until 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 9, and from 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 10, to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 12. Golovin Subdistrict 2 will open to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 8, until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 10. These commercial fishing periods are directed chum salmon periods with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing will be open for 24 hours in Elim Subdistrict 3, Norton Bay Subdistrict 4, Shaktoolik Subdistrict 5, and Unalakleet Subdistrict 6 from 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 7, until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 8, with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller. King salmon caught during the fishery opener in Subdistricts 5 and 6 may be retained for personal use but may not be sold. Any king salmon retained must be reported on a fish ticket at the time of delivery.

Monitoring projects in the northern sections of Norton Sound estimate that chum salmon escapement goals have been met with a harvestable surplus of chum salmon for directed commercial fishing. In southern Norton Sound, king, chum, and pink salmon escapement are below average. Monitoring projects indicate that coho salmon are beginning to return to the region and the short opener will be used to gauge early run strength in Subdistricts 3–6. This opener is not expected to negatively impact escapement of other salmon species, most of which are estimated to have already entered freshwater based on historical run timing.

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