Division of Commercial Fisheries Sam Rabung, Director

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COMMERCIAL FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND SUBDISTRICT 3

In the Norton Sound District, Subdistrict 3 (Elim), will open for two 48-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 28, until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 30, and from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 31, through 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 2, with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller.

The Kwiniuk River in the Elim Subdistrict has exceeded the escapement goal for that system indicating that there is a surplus of coho salmon available above escapement and subsistence needs available for commercial harvest. Elsewhere in the Norton Sound, coho salmon escapements are currently lagging behind historical averages and the most recent commercial opening catch data did not indicate a large build up of coho salmon in the marine waters. The department is forgoing scheduling additional commercial openings in other subdistricts at this time to allow for additional escapement into local area streams.

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