

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 27, 2024

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COMMERCIAL FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND SUBDISTRICTS 1-2 & 4-6

Commercial Salmon Fishing Periods by Subdistrict:

Nome Subdistrict 1

- Commercial fishing will open for two 48-hour periods from 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30, and again from 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 1, until 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 3.

Golovin Subdistrict 2

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29.

Norton Bay Subdistrict 4

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29.

Shaktoolik Subdistrict 5

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29. King salmon may be retained but not sold.

Unalakleet Subdistrict 6

- Commercial fishing will open for 24 hours from Sunday, July 28, until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29. King salmon may be retained but not sold.

All commercial fishing periods are restricted to gillnet mesh size 6 inches or smaller.

Northern Norton Sound escapement projects are seeing coho salmon numbers starting to build and chum salmon goals have been met in the Eldorado River and are projected to be met in most other systems. Data from the Kwiniuk River tower is projecting that chum salmon will be below the escapement goal range and Elim (Subdistrict 3) will remain closed to commercial salmon fishing in an effort to protect chum salmon. Additional commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 3 will depend on coho salmon run strength at the Kwiniuk River tower.

Coho salmon numbers are also building at monitoring projects in Southern Norton Sound. Chum salmon escapement is below the historic average at this time, yet well above recent years indicating that a surplus of chum salmon beyond subsistence and escapement needs exists for a limited commercial fishery. Historically, over 98% of the Chinook salmon run has entered freshwater by this time and this opening is not expected to have detrimental effects on escapement.

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

Subsistence Fishing Closure Rescinded in Subdistrict 1:

Nome Subdistrict 1

- Current restrictions to subsistence fishing in the Sinuk River will be rescinded at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, July 29.

Recent aerial surveys of Glacier Lake indicate that adequate escapement into the lake exists to allow for subsistence fishing to occur without gear restrictions beyond those established in regulations. Net fishing will be open in the Sinuk River downstream from the Boulder Creek confluence and rod and reel subsistence fishing will be allowed throughout the drainage. The Subdistrict 1 subsistence net fishing schedule remains in effect in the Sinuk River with fresh and marine waters open from 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday to 6:00 p.m. Monday each week.

This fisheries announcement does not affect any other subsistence fisheries schedules, restrictions, or closures.