

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: June 16, 2014  
Time: 3:00 p.m.

### **SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND SUBSISTENCE SALMON OPENINGS**

The department's objective this season is to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement needs and refocus harvest pressure on more numerous chum and pink salmon. Installation of salmon enumeration projects in eastern Southern Norton Sound has begun but has been hampered by high water levels. Weather is supposed to improve this coming week however, and all projects from the Inglutalik River counting tower to the Unalakleet River weir should be fully on line by early next week. As planned, brief subsistence salmon openings coinciding with favorable fishing weather will begin this week in Norton Sound Subdistricts 4, 5, and 6, the Norton Bay, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts. Commercial salmon openings will also begin in Norton Bay Subdistrict this week to index pink salmon early run strength and utilize pink salmon harvest surpluses.

#### **Subdistrict 4: Norton Bay**

Effective 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 19, Norton Bay marine waters eastward of a line from Bald Head south to Point Dexter, and the Inglutalik River and Ungalik River drainages, will reopen to subsistence salmon fishing with set gillnets for one 48-hour period from 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 19 to 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 21. Koyuk River remains open to subsistence salmon fishing for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Also, there will be one commercial salmon fishing period directed at pink salmon in Norton Bay Subdistrict, from 12:00 noon Thursday, June 19 to 12:00 midnight, Friday evening, June 20. Commercial permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gear in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 4.5 inches or less.

#### **Subdistricts 5 and 6: Shaktoolik and Unalakleet**

Effective 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, all marine waters of the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, from the southern tip of Cape Denbigh to Black Point, will reopen to subsistence salmon fishing with set gillnets for 30 hours. This subsistence opening will be from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 18 to 12:00 midnight, Thursday evening, June 19. Gillnets during this marine subsistence opening are restricted to a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Freshwater areas of Subdistricts 5 and 6 remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing and only set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 inches or less may be used in freshwater. If you have any questions regarding these openings, please contact Fish and Game at 1-800-560-2271 or 443-5167, or the Unalakleet field office at 624-3921.