ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director



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SUBDISTRICTS 2–4 COMMERCIAL PINK SALMON OPENING AND SUBDISTRICTS 5 & 6 FRESHWATER SUBSISTENCE OPENING

Pink salmon runs in Norton Sound are showing good initial run strength as indexed by escapement counts and strong incidental catches of pink salmon in directed chum salmon openings in Norton Sound. As a result, the department will be establishing a directed pink salmon commercial opening this weekend in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2–4, the Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts. Additionally, an additional 24-hour subsistence fishing opening using beach seines will be allowed in all freshwaters of Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6 this weekend. Fishing period opening and closure times and gear restrictions by area are as follows:

Subdistricts 2-4: Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Commercial Pink Salmon Opening

Effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28, Norton Sound Subdistricts 2, 3, and 4, the Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 24 hours. Commercial fishing will be allowed from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 29. For this directed pink salmon opening, permit holders may use up to 150 fathoms of net in aggregate length, but gillnets must have a stretched mesh size no larger than 4 and one-half inches in length. Any salmon retained for subsistence purposes must be recorded in the personal use section at the bottom of the fish ticket.

Subdistrict 5 and 6 Freshwater Subsistence Opening

Effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28, all freshwaters of the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts will reopen to subsistence salmon fishing with beach seines for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening, June 29. Beach seine mesh size may not exceed 4.5 inches and Chinook salmon inadvertently captured seining for other species must be immediately returned to the water alive and unharmed.

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.