

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SUBSISTENCE CHUM AND PINK SALMON LIMITS WAIVED IN ELDORADO, FLAMBEAU AND BONANZA RIVER DRAINAGES

Effective Monday, July 7, the subsistence salmon catch limits for chum and pink salmon for Safety Sound and Bonanza Channel, and Eldorado, Flambeau and Bonanza rivers are waived.

Large numbers of chum and pink salmon are now moving into Nome Subdistrict rivers. In eastern Nome Subdistrict the Eldorado River weir has an escapement goal range of 6,000 to 9,200 chum salmon. The average historical first quarter point of chum salmon passage at the weir is July 10, and passage is 5,942 chum salmon through July 5. Run projections show that this year will be the fifth consecutive year that the upper end of the escapement goal range will be exceeded.

Pink salmon escapement goals have not been established in eastern Norton Subdistrict rivers, but escapement goals have already been exceeded in rivers in the two adjacent subdistricts to the east well before the average historical midpoint date. Escapement counts at those rivers have been increasing by thousands a day and at Kwiniuk River tens of thousands a day.

Run timing in the rivers in western Nome Subdistrict is later, but chum and pink salmon are entering those rivers in large numbers and the department may waive limits in select rivers west of Cape Nome in mid-July based on escapement counts.

Check the back of the Nome Subdistrict permit for the household catch limits for the fresh water subsistence areas. Catch limits vary by river.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts in Norton Sound:

Unalakleet River: 230 kings, 20,000 chums, 250,000 pinks.
North River: 900 kings, 2,100 chums, 31,000 pinks.
Shaktoolik River: 1,300 kings, 21,000 chums, 100,000 pinks.
Ingulalik River: 3,200 kings, 63,000 chums, 44,000 pinks.
Kwiniuk River: 300 kings, 24,000 chums, 75,000 pinks.
Fish River: 500 kings, 15,000 chums, 15,000 pinks.
Nome River: 200 chums, 100 pinks.
Pilgrim River: 3 kings, 200 chums, 40 pinks, 330 reds.