

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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P.O. Box 1148
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Time: 4:30 p.m.

SUBDISTRICTS 1, 5 AND 6 COMMERCIAL CHUM SALMON OPENINGS

Chum salmon abundance throughout Norton Sound this season has been well above average for the first week of July. In the Nome, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts, there will be commercial openings directed at chum salmon. Fishing times and gear restrictions for each subdistrict are as follows:

Norton Sound Subdistrict 1: Nome Subdistrict

The Nome Subdistrict escapement goal range of 23,000–35,000 chum salmon is projected to be easily exceeded for the fifth consecutive year. Chum salmon escapement needs east of Cape Nome have already been achieved as indexed by the Eldorado River weir, and the 1,100 chum salmon counted at the Nome River weir through July 7 is new record for this date. As a result, the Nome Subdistrict marine waters from the mouth of the Nome River east to Topkok Head will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for two 24-hour periods effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday July 9. Periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 10 and from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 12 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 13. Commercial permit holders are limited to set gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6: Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts

Subdistricts 5 and 6 will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for one 24-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8 to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 9. However, if the incidental harvest of pink salmon declines during this chum salmon opening, the buyer will request the department to extend this period. An announcement will be made tomorrow morning as to whether there will be an extension. The Unalakleet River weir chum salmon count through July 7 is 25,600 chum salmon, the highest since the project began in 2010. At the Shaktoolik River tower operated by NSEDC a total 31,217 chum salmon have been enumerated through July 7.