

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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NORTON SOUND SUBDISTRICTS 2–6 COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING REOPENS FROM JULY 17–24.

Chum salmon escapement needs have been met throughout Norton Sound. At present, an estimated 63,000 chum salmon have also been harvested in the Norton Sound commercial fishery this season. The projected harvest is anticipated to fall within the harvest forecast range of 80,000–110,000 chum salmon.

Harvestable surpluses of chum salmon remain for commercial utilization. However, high surf conditions have limited commercial fishing effort in recent days and stormy weather is expected to continue to be a factor through the weekend. Effective 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 17, Norton Sound Subdistricts 2–6 will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for one week until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 24. Permit holders in all subdistricts are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Opening the fishery for one week will allow the buyer and fishermen flexibility to fish when weather conditions are safe and conducive to ensure catch quality and an orderly fishery. Although fishing will be open continuously during this period, the buyer will have the discretion to set fishing times in the various subdistricts during this period considering processing capacity, weather, tendering logistics and other factors. Accordingly, fishermen are strongly encouraged to remain in contact with the buyer to ensure there is a market for their catch.

The Nome Subdistrict will also reopen to commercial salmon fishing at a later date when weather conditions improve. At the moment, high surf conditions are forecasted through the weekend and fishing will likely not occur even if openings are permitted. An announcement will be made before the weekend regarding the next commercial openings in the Nome Subdistrict. Stay tuned.