

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Contact:  
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist  
Scott M. Kent, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 443-5167  
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office  
P.O. Box 1148  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
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**SUBDISTRICTS 2-4 REOPEN TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING**

Approximately 38,000 cohos have been harvested through August 7. At current harvest rates, the pre-season commercial harvest outlook of 60,000–90,000 coho salmon should be easily achieved.

Early August projections show escapement needs of coho salmon will be achieved in Subdistricts 2–3. Thus far there have been over 2,000 coho salmon enumerated at the Kwiniuk River counting tower east of Elim. This is the highest count through August 7 since 2007 and early to normal run timing projections of Kwiniuk River escapement range from 8,000–10,000 coho salmon based on this level of cumulative passage. This level of escapement will easily provide for inriver subsistence uses and escapement goals. Similarly, the Fish River counting tower operated by NSEDC has counted 4,000 coho salmon. Previous radiotelemetry studies showed a 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Fish River coho salmon escapement spawns in the Niukluk River. The current Fish River count would place the Niukluk River escapement estimate at 1,300 cohos and the projected Niukluk River escapement in excess of 7,000 cohos for the season based on run timing data. This level of escapement would approximate the upper end of the old Niukluk River tower escapement goal range of 2,400–7,200 cohos. There is currently no ground-based escapement information available for Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict. However, comparative catch statistics for coho salmon have been average to above average since the beginning of August.

Available assessment information indicates that harvestable surpluses of coho salmon are available for commercial utilization. Accordingly, Norton Sound Subdistricts 2–4 will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 9 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 11.

Good Luck and Good Fishing