

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



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**SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND CHINOOK SALMON RESTRICTIONS
START JUNE 8**

An early weak run of Chinook salmon is expected for southern Norton Sound this season. Conservation efforts are needed to provide adequate numbers of Chinook salmon to the spawning grounds for long term sustainability of these stocks. The department recently held meetings in Koyuk, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet to gather input from subsistence users regarding Chinook salmon conservation needs and management of subsistence salmon fisheries this season. The following restrictions will be implemented effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 8.

1. Sport fishing for Chinook salmon will be closed in all waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof from June 8 to August 15. Any Chinook salmon incidentally caught while attempting to target other species may not be removed from the water and must be immediately released alive.
2. With exception of the Koyuk River, subsistence salmon fishing will close in all waters of southern Norton Sound from Bald Head, east of Elim, to Wood Point, east of St. Michael, effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 8. Subsistence fishing periods will then be scheduled, by subdistrict (see below), to coincide with favorable weather conditions to the greatest extent possible similar to last year.
3. If the run is better or poorer than expected based on inseason assessment, this plan will be relaxed or become more restrictive.

If you have any questions regarding these restrictions please contact Fish and Game at 1-800-560-2271 or 443-5167, or the Unalakleet field office at 624-3921.

Subdistrict 4: Norton Bay

The Norton Bay Subdistrict (Subdistrict 4) encompasses all waters eastward from Bald Head south to Point Dexter. Effective 12:01 a.m. June 8, all Norton Bay marine waters, including all marine waters from Point Dexter west to Cape Denbigh, and all waters of the Inglutalik River and Ungalik River drainages, will close to subsistence salmon fishing by emergency order. Koyuk River subsistence salmon fishing will not be affected by this action and will remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Subsistence openings in the Ungalik and Inglutalik rivers and Norton Bay marine waters will occur according the following schedule:

1. For the week beginning Monday, June 15: one 48-hour subsistence fishing period to be announced by emergency order.
2. From weeks Monday, June 22 to Sunday, July 5: two 48-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Mondays to 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Thursdays to 6:00 p.m. Saturdays.
3. On Monday, July 6, subsistence salmon fishing in the Norton Bay Subdistrict will reopen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the remainder of the season.
4. Additionally, commercial pink and chum salmon openings could begin as early as June 22 in Norton Bay and will coincide with subsistence salmon fishing openings.

Subdistricts 5 and 6: Shaktoolik and Unalakleet

Shaktoolik Subdistrict (Subdistrict 5) consists of all waters from the tip of Cape Denbigh south to the terminus of Junction Creek. Unalakleet Subdistrict (Subdistrict 6) encompasses all waters from Junction Creek south to Black Point. Effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 8, all marine and fresh waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6, including the Shaktoolik, Egavik, Unalakleet, and Golsovia river drainages will close to subsistence salmon fishing. Following the June 8 closure, set gillnets in marine waters will be restricted to a mesh size of 6 inches or less and fishing time will be incrementally increased until July 12. The tentative weekly schedule for the Subdistricts 5 and 6 marine waters from June 15 to July 12 is as follows:

1. For the week beginning Monday, June 15: one 24-hour subsistence fishing period.
 2. For the week beginning Monday, June 22: two 24-hour subsistence fishing periods.
 3. For the week beginning Monday, June 29: two 48-hour subsistence fishing periods.
- Beginning Monday, July 6, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

From June 8–28, subsistence fishing in freshwater areas such as the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet rivers will be restricted to set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 inches or less. From June 29 to July 26, subsistence gillnet mesh size and fishing time in freshwater will be incrementally increased. Additionally, beach seining opportunities will be provided beginning June 29, but any Chinook salmon incidentally captured in beach seines must be released immediately back into the water alive and unharmed. The tentative weekly schedule for the Subdistricts 5 and 6 freshwater areas from June 8 to July 26 is as follows:

1. From June 8–28: set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 inches or less, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
2. For the week beginning Monday, June 29: two 36-hour fishing periods allowing beach seines and set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less.
3. For the week beginning Monday, July 6: two 36-hour fishing periods allowing beach seines and set gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less.
4. Beginning Monday, July 13: beach seines and set gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Other Southern Norton Sound Waters

Effectively 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 8, all marine waters from Black Point south to Wood Point, east of St. Michael will close to subsistence salmon fishing through June 30. On July 1, subsistence salmon fishing in these marine waters will revert back to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with no restrictions. For all waters from Wood Point to Point Romanof, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week but subsistence fishermen are requested to use set gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less to minimize incidental harvest of Chinook salmon.