

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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

Norton Sound Area Office
Pouch 1148
Nome, AK, 99762
Date Issued: June 12, 2015
Time: 11:30 a.m.

**SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND SUBSISTENCE FISHING OPENINGS
BEGIN MONDAY, JUNE 15**

As planned, subsistence salmon openings will commence in the southern Norton Sound subdistricts next week. Fishing times and gear restrictions by subdistrict are as follows.

Norton Bay Subdistrict

Effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 15, Norton Sound Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will be reopened to a schedule of two 48-hour subsistence fishing periods. Periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 15 to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 17 and from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 18 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 20. This action applies to all marine waters eastward from a line from Bald Head south to Point Dexter and the Ungalik and Inglutalik river drainages. Marine waters from Point Dexter westward to Cape Denbigh will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing until further notice. During these openings there are no restrictions on gillnet mesh size, but fishermen are encouraged to utilize gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less to minimize harvests of Chinook salmon. The Koyuk River remains open 7 days a week with no restrictions and is not affected by this action.

Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts

All marine waters of Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, will reopen to subsistence salmon fishing for one 24-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 15 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 16. Set gillnets during this period are restricted to a mesh size of 6 inches or less. All freshwater areas within Subdistricts 5 and 6 will remain closed to beach seining and gillnets with a stretched mesh size larger than 4 inches. A reminder to subsistence users that the marine waters from Black Point south to Wood Point will remain closed until Tuesday, June 30. Westerly winds in the neighborhood of 15 knots are expected for the June 15 opener based on the current forecast. If the forecast is upgraded to something more severe, the department will consider allowing an additional 24-hour opener later in the week to provide more fishing opportunity.

Salmon Projects Update

Several salmon projects are in the process of being installed in different areas of Norton Sound. These include projects operated by NSEDC such as the Fish River, Inglutalik River, and North River towers, as well as ADF&G projects such as the Kwiniuk River tower and Unalakleet River weir. Some of these projects should begin to provide data as early as mid-week.