

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SUBSISTENCE BEACH SEINING AND COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENS IN SHAKTOOLIK AND UNALAKLEET

As planned, freshwater subsistence opportunities for salmon other than Chinook salmon will begin in July and marine subsistence fishing time will be increased in Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts. Commercial salmon fishing will also open in the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts Wednesday, July 1. Fishing times and gear restrictions by area are as follows:

Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Freshwater Areas

There will be two 36-hour freshwater subsistence fishing periods for all freshwaters from Cape Denbigh to Black Point from 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 1 to 12:00 midnight Thursday, evening July 2, and from 12:00 noon Friday, July 3 to 12:00 midnight Saturday, July 4. During these periods, only beach seines and set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less may be used to fish for salmon. Gillnets used as seines are also required by regulation to have a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less. Any Chinook salmon caught in beach seine gear must be released immediately back into the water alive and unharmed.

Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistrict Marine Waters

There will be one 24-hour and one 48-hour subsistence fishing period in the marine waters this week allowing use of set gillnets with a mesh size no larger than 6 inches. The Subdistricts 5 and 6 marine waters will be open to subsistence fishing with set gillnets for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 1 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 2 and for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 3 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 5.

Commercial salmon fishing will also open for 24 hours from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 1 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 2. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less. A reminder to fishermen and seafood processing personnel that the sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited this season in Subdistricts 5 and 6. Chinook salmon harvested incidentally may be used for subsistence purposes but must be recorded at the time of delivery in the personal use section of the fish ticket. The department will evaluate commercial catch statistics and escapement information to determine if additional commercial opportunities can be provided later in the week without jeopardizing Chinook salmon escapement needs.