

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL CHUM SALMON SCHEDULES SET

Chinook salmon escapement goals are projected to be achieved in southern Norton Sound drainages. Additionally, all chum salmon escapement goals have already been achieved from Cape Nome south to Unalakleet. Nearly 65,000 chum salmon have been harvested in the commercial fishery this season and the harvest is expected to exceed 100,000 chum salmon for the fifth time in six years. Subdistricts 2–6 will be placed on commercial fishing schedules to allow the buyer and fishermen to conduct an orderly fishery and utilize remaining chum salmon harvestable surpluses. Additionally, commercial salmon fishing will reopen in the eastern half of the Nome Subdistrict and subsistence fishing time will be increased in Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts. Commercial 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. Commercial and subsistence fishing times and subsistence gear specifications by area are as follows:

Nome Subdistrict

Effective 12:00 noon Saturday, July 11, the eastern half of the Nome Subdistrict from the Cape Nome jetty eastward to Topkok Head will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours until 12:00 noon Monday, July 13.

Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts

Effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, the Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts will reopen to a commercial chum salmon fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of July. Periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Saturdays to 6:00 p.m. Mondays, and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays to 6:00 p.m. Fridays.

Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts

There will be one 72-hour commercial period in Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Beginning 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts will reopen to a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of July. Periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays to 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays. A reminder to commercial salmon fishermen that any Chinook salmon

incidentally harvested in the Subdistricts 5 and 6 must be retained for subsistence purposes. Any Chinook salmon and other salmon caught while commercial fishing may not be sold and must be released alive or retained for subsistence purposes and must be recorded in the personal use section of each fish ticket at the time of delivery.

Also, effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, subsistence salmon fishing in the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts from Cape Denbigh to Black Point will reopen to set gillnets with a mesh of 6 inches or less 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through midnight Saturday evening, July 25. Freshwaters areas within the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts also reopen to a subsistence fishing schedule of two 36-hour periods per week until midnight Saturday evening, July 25. Periods will be from 12:00 noon Tuesdays to 12:00 midnight Wednesdays and from 12:00 noon Fridays to 12:00 midnight, Saturdays. During this freshwater fishing schedule, only beach seines or set gillnets with a mesh size 4 ½ inches or less may be used. Any Chinook salmon captured in beach seines must be released immediately back into the water alive and unharmed.