

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
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**COMMERCIAL FISHING TIME INCREASED IN THE NOME
SUBDISTRICT. SCHEDULE STARTS NOON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**

For the sixth consecutive year the Nome Subdistrict escapement goal range of 23,000 to 35,000 chum salmon has been surpassed. Mid-July projections based on ground-based weir counts and lower river aerial surveys of Nome Subdistrict drainages shows that all rivers will meet and most cases exceed chum salmon escapement goals. This year's run of chum salmon to the Nome Subdistrict is anticipated to approach or exceed 100,000 chum salmon for the third consecutive season. As a result of this year's strong run and strong commercial and subsistence catch rates, the department is expanding commercial fishing time for the eastern half of the Nome Subdistrict from the Cape Nome Jetty eastward to the Topkok Head. Effective 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 15, there will be two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods per week for the remainder of July. Periods will be from 12:00 noon Wednesdays 12:00 noon Fridays and from 12:00 noon Saturdays to 12:00 noon Mondays. During this commercial fishing schedule, permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.