

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
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**2015 SILVER SALMON HARVEST SETS NEW RECORD**

Late last night, the Norton Sound commercial silver harvest hit 135,000 silver and in doing so, broke the previous record harvest of 130,000 silvers taken in 2006. Silver salmon escapement goals at all ground-based escapement projects from Golovin to Unalakleet have also been achieved or exceeded and inriver abundance will easily provide for subsistence uses of silver salmon.

Additional commercial fishing is warranted to capitalize on remaining late season harvestable surpluses. As a result, Subdistricts 2–6 will be placed on fishing schedules for the remainder of their seasons. 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. Fishing times by subdistrict are as follows:

**Subdistricts 2, 3, and 4: Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts**

Effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 22, Subdistricts 2–4 will reopen to a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of the season. The Subdistricts 2 and 3 season closes by regulation on August 31 and the Norton Bay season ends on September 6. Fishing 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. Silver salmon harvests in Subdistricts 2–4 are on pace to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> best on record in Golovin, 2<sup>nd</sup> best in Elim, and record setting in Norton Bay.

**Subdistricts 5 and 6: Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts**

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 23, Subdistricts 5 and 6 will reopen on a schedule of two 48-hour periods per week until the conclusion of the fishing season on Sunday, September 6. Periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays to 6:00 p.m. Fridays. The Unalakleet Subdistrict harvest is on pace to shatter the previous record of 98,000 silvers caught in 2006 and the Shaktoolik Subdistrict harvest is the third best ever.

Congratulations to Norton Sound salmon fishers and Norton Sound Seafood Products on another safe and very successful salmon fishing season. Good luck and Good Fishing!