

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



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NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS

In consultation with the buyer the department is announcing additional 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods in Norton Sound. Silver salmon were the majority of the catch from Golovin to Unalakleet in the recent 48-hour fishing periods that ended Wednesday evening. There were big catches of silvers from Elim to Unalakleet and as the silvers move north the catch in Golovin and Nome would be expected to pick up.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for one 48-hour fishing period in Subdistrict 1, the Nome Subdistrict, from 6 p.m. Friday, August 12 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 14. Commercial salmon fishing will be open for two 48-hour fishing periods in Subdistricts 2—6, the Golovin, Elim, Norton Bay, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, from 6 p.m. Friday, August 12 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 14 and from 6 p.m. Monday, August 15 until 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 17.

For all fishing periods, permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretch mesh size.

Southern Norton Sound escapement project crews have been unable to count for over three weeks because of high water and the Fish River tower crew has been unable to count since the end of July. The department will now use harvest-based management in those areas where escapement projects and aerial surveys are unable to determine the silver salmon run size. The department will compare the silver catch in the commercial fishery to historical catches during the same time period taking fishing effort and weather into consideration to determine if run strength is sufficient to allow additional commercial fishing time.

Here are cumulative escapement counts in Norton Sound:

Kwiniuk River: 138 kings, 8,500 chums, 1.9 million pinks, 9 sockeyes, 780 silvers
Nome River: 11 kings, 6,500 chums, 1.1 million pinks, 160 sockeyes, 225 silvers
Pilgrim River: 28 kings, 19,000 chums, 2,900 pinks, 14,600 sockeyes, 275 silvers
Snake River: 12 kings, 3,600 chums, 205,000 pinks, 31 sockeyes, 110 silvers
Solomon River: 4 kings, 1,900 chums, 115,000 pinks, 9 sockeyes, 135 silvers