

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: September 1, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.

NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for two 48-hour fishing periods in Subdistricts 4—6, the Norton Bay, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, from 6 p.m. Friday, September 2 until 6 p.m. Sunday, September 4 and from 6 p.m. Monday, September 5 until 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 7.

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

Silver catches have been average to above average this past week in southern Norton Sound and with continued good weather this year's commercial harvest should be over 100,000 silvers and may finish as high as sixth best in history. This will be the fifth time in last 10 years the harvest has exceeded 100,000 silvers and the eighth time in the 56-year fishery history.

The North River counting tower is the only salmon escapement counting project operational in southern Norton Sound. The crew in Unalakleet was able to start counting again in late August and has counted for 10 days and has counted 1,800 silvers to date. For a similar time period in previous years the counts are comparable.

The three additional escapement counting projects still operational are the Kwiniuk River tower and the Nome River and Snake River weirs. The Kwiniuk River tower has counted 5,300 silvers and although about one-third below the 10-year average the counts have picked up this past week. Both Nome River and Snake River weirs were knocked out for several days last week during the likely peak of silver salmon passage. Historically the 50% point of silver run past each weir is August 31. Recent aerial survey counts of each river were 1,100 silvers in the Nome River and 1,000 silvers in the Snake River.