

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
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Time: 4:00 p.m.

**EASTERN NORTON SOUND KING SALMON MANAGEMENT
OUTREACH MEETINGS ON MAY 16**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be holding community meetings in the villages of Koyuk, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet on May 16 to discuss the upcoming salmon season. The primary purpose of these meetings is to inform residents about the 2017 king salmon run forecast and fishing restrictions. The department will discuss management options for the 2017 season with village residents to gather input on preferred management options. The department will discuss management options to allow for limited king salmon subsistence harvest opportunities while ensuring king salmon escapement goals can be achieved. Affected communities have provided valuable input to fishery managers the last several years that ultimately led to achievement of escapement goals in two of the last three years. The Koyuk Community meeting will be held at the city office building at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 16. The Shaktoolik community meeting will be held at the corporation annex building at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 16. The Unalakleet community will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 16 at the IRA memorial hall.

Twelve years have passed since the last king salmon directed commercial fishing periods occurred in southern Norton Sound. King salmon runs continue to be weak compared to historical levels. However, runs of king salmon in 2014 and 2015 showed considerable improvement from the exceptionally weak runs observed from 2010–2013, but 2016 run was considerably weaker compared to 2014 and 2015.

The department may implement restrictions to subsistence fishing as early as June 1 in eastern Norton Sound. As in previous years, restrictions may include a combination of temporary closures to marine and freshwater areas, mesh-size restrictions, and fishing time reductions. If you have any questions regarding these upcoming meetings please contact Fish and Game at 1-800-560-2271 or 443-5167.