

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SHAKTOOLIK AND UNALAKLEET SUBSISTENCE SALMON OPENING

Subsistence salmon fishing will reopen in the marine waters of the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts effective 6 p.m. Thursday, July 13 until further notice. The Unalakleet River drainage will reopen to subsistence salmon set gillnet fishing at 8 a.m. Friday, July 14 until further notice. Subsistence gillnets are restricted to 50 fathoms or shorter in all fresh and marine waters in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet, except in the Unalakleet River drainage where gillnets are restricted to 25 fathoms or shorter. However, no net can block more than half of any channel at any tide stage and no drift gillnetting is allowed.

Beach seining remains open seven days a week, but all king salmon captured must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. However, when gillnet fishing any king salmon captured may be kept.

The king salmon run in Norton Sound has been well below average this year, but restrictions on fishing have helped to improve king salmon escapements. King salmon passage at North River has slowed in recent days, but as we near the historical midpoint of king salmon passage at the counting tower the projection indicates that the lower end of escapement goal range of 1,200-2,600 will be reached.

The chum salmon run has been well above average this year and for an odd-numbered the pink salmon run has been well above average. The chum run is predominately four- and five-year old salmon and the four-year-old chum salmon run has been very strong this year. Silver salmon are mostly four-year-old fish and unlike chum salmon they overwinter in fresh water for two years. Based on the good run of 4-year-old chum salmon and warm winters during the silver salmon rearing in fresh water the department would expect a good silver salmon run.