

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Manager
Justin Leon, Assistant Manager
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Norton Sound Area Office
Pouch 1148
Nome, AK, 99762
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CHANGES TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING SCHEDULE

The previous announced commercial salmon fishing period in Subdistrict 5, Shaktoolik that was scheduled from noon to midnight today has been cancelled. The buyer has requested a delay of one day. Therefore, the next commercial salmon fishing period in Shaktoolik will be a 12-hour opening from noon Saturday until midnight Saturday evening. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Norton Sound Subdistricts 2, 3, and 4, Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts will be open to commercial salmon fishing for 24 hours from 6 p.m. Saturday until 6 p.m. Sunday. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

There is the possibility that Subdistrict 6, Unalakleet will open to commercial fishing on Saturday depending on the catch volume during today's 12-hour fishing period. The buyer plans to notify the department later today whether they will have sufficient capacity for another opening.

The chum salmon run has been well above average and chum salmon passage at Norton Sound salmon counting projects is projected to exceed all escapement goal ranges.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts in Norton Sound:

Unalakleet River: 2,700 kings, 80,000 chums, 1,500,000 pinks, 850 sockeyes, 10 silvers
North River: 930 kings, 13,000 chums, 700,000 pinks
Shaktoolik River: 1,200 kings, 82,000 chums, 500,000 pinks
Inglutalik River: 2,200 kings, 60,000 chums, 350,000 pinks
Kwiniuk River: 36 kings, 26,000 chums, 60,000 pinks
Fish River: 162 kings, 110,000 chums, 900,000 pinks
Solomon River: 1,000 chums, 1,000 pinks
Eldorado River: 2 kings, 39,000 chums, 2,000 pinks, 5 sockeyes
Nome River: 2,100 chums, 40,000 pinks, 50 sockeyes, 13 silvers
Snake River: 1,800 chums, 600 pinks, 6 sockeyes, 1 silver
Pilgrim River: 40 kings, 8,000 chums, 1,300 pinks, 25,000 sockeyes