

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



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NOME SUBDISTRICT COMMERCIAL FISHING TIME EXTENDED

The ongoing commercial salmon fishing period in the Nome Subdistrict will be extended for 24 hours and now close at 9 p.m. Monday.

Silver salmon have been entering Nome Subdistrict rivers in high numbers and the Nome River weir count is the highest for this date since 2006. Hook and line fishers have reported good silver catches throughout the subdistrict. Although the high water levels have helped get the silvers moving into the rivers the downside of the recent rainy weather has been that all Norton Sound counting towers are no longer operational.

The department expects that Kwiniuk River tower crew should be able to resume counting by Monday and the Fish River tower crew may be able to count later in the week. None of the southern Norton Sound counting towers are expected to be able to count anytime in the near future and the Shaktoolik River tower crew has switched to using the sonar. Only the Pilgrim and Nome weirs remain operational. The department pulled most of the Unalakleet River weir out before being flooded out on Thursday. The Solomon River and Snake River weirs were flooded out on Friday evening.

The Nome River and Pilgrim River crews should be able to keep the weirs operational as long there is not another big rain event. The Pilgrim River weir crew reports that the sockeye count has finally slowed with 32 sockeyes passing the weir on Friday and 122 sockeyes on Saturday.

Here are the cumulative silver escapement counts in Norton Sound:

Unalakleet River: Final count 18,000 silvers
Shaktoolik River: 6,000 silvers
Kwiniuk River: 3,700 silvers
Fish River: 8,800 silvers
Solomon River: 180 silvers
Nome River: 800 silvers
Snake River: 50 silvers
Pilgrim River: 140 silvers