

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
Date Issued: June 21, 2018
Time: 10:30 a.m.

COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN GOLOVIN, ELIM AND NORTON BAY

Commercial salmon fishing will open for 24 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2, 3, and 4, the Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts, from 6 p.m. Saturday, June 23 until 6 p.m. Sunday, June 24. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Permit holders must be in possession of a 2018 Norton Sound commercial salmon permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. All crewmembers must have a 2018 commercial crewmember's license or a 2018 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit. For example, a 2018 Norton Sound commercial crab permit card can substitute for a crewmember's license.

Because of high water this year the department and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC) have been unable to get any weirs or towers operational to count adult salmon escapement. The department forecast is for a well above average chum salmon run this year and the department will use harvest based management until the escapement counting projects are operational. Harvest based management compares the catch from a fishing period with catches from previous years during the same date and takes into consideration fishing effort and weather conditions. The short commercial fishery opening will allow some utilization of an expected harvest surplus while not jeopardizing escapement needs of chum salmon in Subdistricts 2, 3, and 4 drainages.

Good luck and good fishing.