

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Time: 9:30 a.m.

SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND WATERS TO OPEN TO GILLNETTING

The marine waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6, south to Wood Point, will be open for 24 hours to subsistence gillnetting with mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller from 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 until 6 p.m. Thursday, July 12. King salmon caught in gillnets can be kept.

The fresh waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6, south to Wood Point will open for 12 hours to subsistence gillnetting with mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller from 12 noon, Thursday until midnight Thursday evening. A reminder that a gillnet cannot block more than one-half the width of any channel or side channel of a fish stream and gillnets in the Unalakleet River are limited to 25 fathoms in length and no person may operate an unanchored fishing net. King salmon caught in gillnets can be kept.

By regulation, commercial permit holders that have participated in commercial salmon fishing this season cannot participate in subsistence fishing, but can take salmon for their personal use from their commercial catch. However, beginning July 15 through August 1, Alaska resident commercial salmon permit holders may take salmon for subsistence purposes in the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet River drainages when subsistence fishing is open with gillnets 4 ½ inches or smaller or by beach seine.

The fresh waters of southern Norton Sound remain open to subsistence beach seining, dip netting and cast netting 7 days a week with the requirement that all king salmon captured in beach seines, dip nets and cast nets must be immediately released.

Norton Sound cumulative salmon escapement counts are:

Unalakleet River: 650 kings, 27,000 chums

North River: 570 kings, 9,000 chums, 200,000 pinks

Shaktoolik River: 600 kings, 24,000 chums, 140,000 pinks

Inglutalik River: 150 kings, 9,000 chums, 1,300 pinks

Kwiniuk River: 51 kings, 23,000 chums, 370,000 pinks

Fish River: 1,000 chums, 5,000 pinks

Solomon River: 200 chums, 10,000 pinks

Eldorado River: 15 kings, 13,000 chums, 800 pinks

Nome River: 700 chums, 200,000 pinks, 15 sockeyes

Snake River: 300 chums, 12,000 pinks

Pilgrim River: 22 kings, 1,500 chums, 750 pinks, 7,600 sockeyes