

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING REOPENS

Subsistence salmon fishing will open in the marine and fresh waters of the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, south to Wood Point effective midnight Sunday evening, July 15 until further notice. Subsistence gillnets are restricted to 50 fathoms or shorter in all fresh and marine waters, however, no net can block more than half of any channel at any tide stage.

Beach seining, dip netting and cast netting 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.

King salmon passage at North River counting tower has improved greatly in the last two days and for the first time in three years the lower end of escapement goal range of 1,200-2,600 king salmon has been exceeded with 1,500 king salmon counted.

The chum and pink salmon runs have been well above average this year. The chum run is predominately four- and five-year old salmon and the four-year-old chum salmon run has been strong again 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.

Cumulative escapement counts are:

North River: 1,500 kings, 12,000 chums, 300,000 pinks, 60 sockeyes, 3 silvers

Unalakleet River: 1,800 kings, 50,000 chums, 11 silvers

Shaktoolik River: 900 kings, 30,000 chums, 260,000 pinks

Inglutalik River: 200 kings, 12,500 chums, 3,500 pinks, 15 sockeyes

Kwiniuk River: 60 kings, 29,000 chums, 750,000 pinks

Fish River: 72 kings, 14,000 chums, 320,000 pinks

Solomon River: 1 king, 500 chums, 100,000 pinks

Bonanza River: 2,000 chums, 150,000 pinks, 21 sockeyes

Eldorado River: 24 kings, 23,000 chums, 8,000 pinks, 4 silvers

Nome River: 3 kings, 900 chums, 600,000 pinks, 33 sockeyes, 2 silvers

Snake River: 400 chums, 20,000 pinks

Pilgrim River: 45 kings, 5,000 chums, 5,000 pinks, 12,000 sockeyes