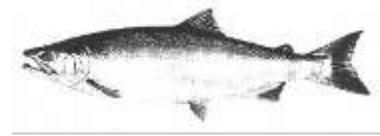


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Douglas Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Sam Rabung, Director*



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Norton Sound Area Office
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, AK, 99762
Date Issued: June 26, 2019
Time: 12:00 p.m.

**COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN NOME, ELIM AND
NORTON BAY SUBDISTRICTS**

Commercial salmon fishing will open for 24 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 1, 3, and 4, the Nome, Elim, and Norton Bay Subdistricts.

Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts will be open from 6 p.m. Thursday, June 27 until 6 p.m. Friday, June 28 and Nome Subdistrict will be open from 9 p.m. Thursday, June 27 until 9 p.m. Friday, June 28. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

The department forecast was for a well above average chum salmon run in 2019, but early subsistence chum salmon catches in southern Norton Sound have been weaker than expected and last week's commercial openings had lower than expected catches. High water has prevented some escapement counting projects from operating in northern Norton Sound and the department is using 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 similar dates and takes into consideration fishing effort and weather conditions.

Last year escapement counting projects were also delayed by high water. However, so far this year the projects have become operational days or over a week ahead of time when compared to last year. The Eldorado River weir operated by Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) became fish tight this morning. The department thanks NSEDC for their continued support of salmon counting operations throughout Norton Sound.

By this weekend the department hopes to have the Kwiniuk River counting tower in Elim Subdistrict and the Bonanza River weir in Nome Subdistrict operational.