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Advisory Announcement

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CHANGES TO SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERY

By Board of Fisheries regulation, the King Salmon Management Plan for Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, and the Unalakleet River is in effect and from July 1 through August 10 beach seining is allowed 7 days a week unless changed by emergency order. In all waters of Subdistricts 5 and 6 salmon other than king salmon may be kept when beach seining. All king salmon caught when beach seining must be returned immediately to water unharmed. Beach seines must have a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller.

The subsistence gillnet fishing schedule remains the same through July 15 unless changed by emergency order.

The marine water subsistence fishing schedule for Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts is from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Thursdays until 6:00 p.m. Saturdays. There are no gillnet mesh size restrictions. The southern boundary of the Unalakleet Subdistrict is Black Point and south of Black Point to Point Romanof subsistence fishing remains open 7 days a week with no mesh size restrictions.

In the Unalakleet River the subsistence gillnet fishing schedule is from 8 a.m. Mondays until 8 p.m. Tuesdays and from 8 a.m. Fridays until 8 p.m. Saturdays. There are no gillnet mesh size restrictions.

The next possible commercial fishing openings in Norton Sound are likely to begin Wednesday or Thursday. High water has prevented the crews from operating the southern Norton Sound salmon escapement counting projects. However, most of the northern Norton Sound projects are operational. Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) has the Fish, Eldorado, and Pilgrim projects operational and the department has the Bonanza, Nome, and Kwiniuk projects operational. The department thanks NSED for their over two decades of support running salmon projects and aiding with department projects throughout Norton Sound.

Here are the salmon escapement counts through Monday.

Nome River: 1 pink

Eldorado River: 42 chums, 93 pinks

Bonanza River: 1 chum

Pilgrim River: No salmon passage yet

Fish River: 330 chums, 318 pinks, 12 kings, 12 sockeyes

Kwiniuk River: 153 chums, 192 pinks

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, subsistence fishing is essential and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Subsistence fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>