

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Headquarters Office
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 2, 2020

CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark
Norton Sound Area Manager & Asst. Area Manager
(907) 443-5167 (800) 560-2271

COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO REOPEN IN NORTON SOUND

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, the Nome, Golovin, Elim, Norton Bay, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts. In all subdistricts permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

In Subdistrict 2, the Golovin Subdistrict, commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours from 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 1 until 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2. In the last 24-hour fishing period in Golovin ending Tuesday night the commercial catch was 1,391 chums, 198 pinks, 9 kings and 5 sockeyes by 9 permit holders. The chum catch was average but did drop from the 2,646 chums caught during the previous 24-hour fishing period.

Except for the Nome and Golovin Subdistricts, commercial salmon fishing will be open from 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2 until 6 p.m. Friday, July 3. In the Nome Subdistrict commercial salmon fishing will be open from 9 p.m. Thursday, July 2 until 9 p.m. Friday, July 3.

Permit holders must be in possession of a 2020 Norton Sound commercial salmon permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. All crewmembers must have a 2020 commercial crewmember's license or a 2020 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit. For example, a 2020 Norton Sound commercial crab permit card can substitute for a crewmember's license.

The department forecast this year was for a well above average run of chum, pink, and silver salmon and a good sockeye salmon run. Forecast for the king salmon run was for an improved run like last year. To date, the king salmon run has shown better than expected and pink salmon are showing in good numbers. Although it is still early in the season the chum and sockeye numbers have been lower than expected.

High water has prevented the southern Norton Sound salmon escapement counting projects from operating but most northern Norton Sound projects are now operating.

Here are the escapement counts:

Kwiniuk River: 159 chums, 270 pinks

Fish River: 330 chums, 318 pinks, 12 kings, 12 sockeyes. No counts the last two days because of high water.

Bonanza River: 1 chum

Eldorado River: 44 chums, 96 pinks

Nome River: 2 pinks

Pilgrim River: No salmon counted yet.

Kwiniuk River and Fish River are counting tower projects and the other counting projects are weirs.

COVID-19

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