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Advisory Announcement
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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN GOLOVIN, SHAKTOOLIK AND UNALAKLEET SUBDISTRICTS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours from 6 p.m. Thursday, July 9 until 6 p.m. Friday, July 10 in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2, 5 and 6, the Golovin, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet 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 the Golovin Subdistrict, the Fish River tower has been unable to operate since late June because of high water. Last week's 24-hour fishing period was the third 24-hour opening of the season and the chum catch continued to decline. If this next commercial fishing is below the historical average again no more commercial fishing time will be expected unless there is a pink directed or silver salmon fishing period.

Elsewhere in northern Norton Sound the counting projects are operational and show chum salmon escapement lagging. At the Kwiniuk River tower, near Elim, the escapement is just over 1,500 chums at the historical midpoint of the chum run past the tower. The escapement goal range at Kwiniuk River tower is 9,100 – 32,600 chums and unless chum escapement improves no more commercial fishing time is expected in Elim Subdistrict or there is a pink directed or silver salmon fishing period.

At Eldorado River in Nome Subdistrict the weir has been operational since June 25 and the count is 587 chums and the escapement is nearing the historical quarter point of chum passage. The escapement goal range at the weir is 4,400 – 14,200 chums. The other 4 weirs in Nome Subdistrict are now operational and near the starting point of chum salmon passage. No more commercial fishing time is expected in Nome Subdistrict until chum escapement improves or there is a pink directed or silver salmon fishing period.

High water had prevented the southern Norton Sound salmon escapement counting projects from operating but the North River tower did become operational on Monday afternoon. Like the other subdistricts chum catches have been below average in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts and if the chum catch is again below average no more commercial fishing time is expected until chum escapement improves or there is a pink directed or silver salmon fishing period.

Here are the escapement counts:

North River: 9 kings, 15 chums, 10,200 pinks

Kwiniuk River: 93 kings, 1,515 chums, 87,000 pinks

Fish River: 330 chums, 318 pinks, 12 kings, 12 sockeyes. No counts for over a week because of high water.

Solomon River: 5 chums, 18 pinks

Bonanza River: 4 chums, 2 pinks

Eldorado River: 3 kings, 587 chums, 322 pinks

Nome River: 18 chums, 27,000 pinks

Snake River: 8 pinks

Pilgrim River: 2 kings, 42 chums, 20 pinks, 355 sockeyes

North River, 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/>