

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO REOPEN IN NOME AND GOLOVIN

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 48 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 1 and 2, the Nome and Golovin Subdistricts beginning the evening of July 17.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open in Golovin Subdistrict from 6 p.m. Friday, July 17 until 6 p.m. Sunday, July 19. In Nome Subdistrict, commercial salmon fishing will be open from 9 p.m. Friday, July 17 until 9 p.m. Sunday, July 19. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

The most recent fishing periods in Norton Sound saw near average catches in Nome and Golovin but poorer catches elsewhere where fishing did occur. Chum salmon counts at the Kwiniuk River tower in Elim are well below average and the lower end of the escapement goal is not expected to be met. Chum counts in southern Norton Sound are also below average and no more fishing is expected unless there are restricted gillnet mesh size openings to target pink salmon.

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.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts:

North River: 357 kings, 552 chums, 420,000 pinks
Shaktoolik River: 558 kings, 3,600 chums, 1.2 million pinks
Ungalik River: 51 kings, 5,500 chums, 470,000 pinks
Kwiniuk River: 318 kings, 3,500 chums, 860,000 pinks, 54 sockeyes
Fish River: 12 kings, 5,000 chums, 1.4 million pinks, 18 sockeyes.
Solomon River: 125 chums, 88,000 pinks, 15 sockeyes, 9 silvers
Bonanza River: 8 kings, 900 chums, 92,000 pinks, 10 sockeyes
Eldorado River: 13 kings, 5,200 chums, 63,000 pinks, 10 sockeyes, 5 silvers
Nome River: 4 kings, 412 chums, 500,000 pinks, 120 sockeyes, 1 silver
Snake River: 123 chums, 50,000 pinks, 36 sockeyes
Pilgrim River: 26 kings, 1,000 chums, 3,300 pinks, 3,300 sockeyes

The first five projects listed above 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/>