

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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SILVER SALMON COMMERCIAL FISHING TO REOPEN IN NORTON SOUND

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 24 hours in Subdistricts 1 through 6. Golovin, Elim, Norton Bay, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts will be open from 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 17, until 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 18. Nome Subdistrict will open from 9 p.m. Tuesday, August 17, until 9 p.m. Wednesday, August 18. 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.

All salmon escapement counting projects in Norton Sound are inoperable at this time because of high water and more rain is forecast so it is likely projects will not be operational in the near future. Murky water conditions in the rivers also hampers aerial surveys.

Because of lack of escapement information, the department will manage based on harvest-based management for the commercial silver fishery. Harvest-based management is when the department compares catches with previous years for the same time frame. The recent silver fishing period that ended Monday evening had catches similar to last year and if the next opening shows below average catches, then there may be more time between openings and/or some subdistricts may not open.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>