

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN 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 beginning on the evening of June 24.

Except for the Nome Subdistrict, commercial salmon fishing will be open from 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 24 until 6 p.m. Thursday, June 25. In the Nome Subdistrict commercial salmon fishing will be open from 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 24 until 8 p.m. Thursday, June 25. In all subdistricts, permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

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 is for a well above average run of chum, pink, and silver salmon and a good sockeye salmon run. Forecast for the king salmon is for an improved run like last year and enabling the regular subsistence fishing schedule this year.

The department will use harvest-based management until the escapement counting projects are operational later this week. Harvest-based management compares the catch from a fishing period with catches from previous years during the similar dates and takes into consideration fishing effort and weather conditions. This short duration commercial fishing opening will allow utilization of the expected harvestable surplus of salmon and is not expected to jeopardize subsistence or escapement needs.

Commercial permit holders fishing in Subdistricts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are reminded that once they start fishing, they can no longer subsistence fish for salmon but can retain some of their commercial catch for personal use. The exception is that from July 15 through August 1 they can subsistence fish in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik River drainages with gillnets that have a mesh size that does not exceed four and one-half inches and with beach seines.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 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/>