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Advisory Announcement
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SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERY

Subsistence gillnet fishing is currently closed in Subdistricts 5 and 6. Subsistence fishing in marine waters of Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet) and marine and fresh waters of Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik) will open for one 24-hour period from 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 11, until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 12. Gillnet mesh size is restricted to a maximum of 6-inch stretched mesh. All other subsistence fisheries in Norton Sound remain unchanged by this 24-hour fishing period.

By Board of Fisheries regulation, the King Salmon Management Plan for Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts, and the Unalakleet River is in effect and from July 1 through August 10 beach seining is allowed 7 days a week unless changed by emergency order. Salmon other than king salmon may be kept when beach seining in Subdistricts 5 and 6. All king salmon caught when beach seining must be returned immediately to water unharmed. Beach seines must have a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller.

Salmon escapements to Subdistricts 5 and 6 have improved and escapement objectives are projected to be met. But given the low abundance in recent years the department is opting for a conservative approach to opening commercial or subsistence fisheries to ensure escapement objectives are achieved. The department thanks NSEDC for operating salmon counting projects for over two decades and aiding with department counting projects in Norton Sound.

Here are the salmon escapement counts through Monday, July 4:

Eldorado River: 1 king, 800 chums, 3,300 pinks, 7 reds
Inglutalkik River: 27 kings, 3,000 chums, 16,500 pinks
Kwiniuk River: 21 kings, 6,430 chums, 183,500 pinks, 3 reds
Niukluk River: 40 kings, 10,600 chums, 87,000 pinks, 600 reds
Nome River: 55 chums, 6,730 pinks, 2 reds
North River: 740 kings, 530 chums, 373,800 pinks, 42 reds
Pilgrim River: 3 kings, 25 chums, 160 pinks, 440 reds
Shaktoolik River: 890 kings, 8,230 chums, 926,100 pinks, 18 reds
Snake River: 2 kings, 370 chums, 12,150 pinks, 130 reds
Unalakleet River: 72 kings, 2,250 chums, 150 reds
Ungalik River: 110 kings, 8,500 chums, 179,200 pinks