

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
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COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IN SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND

Subdistrict 5, the Shaktoolik Subdistrict, will open for 12 hours from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 17. This commercial fishing period will have gillnets restricted to a mesh size of 6 inches, or smaller, and 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. King salmon caught during this opening in Subdistricts 5 may be retained for personal use but may not be sold. Any fish retained for personal use by commercial fishermen must be recorded on the fish ticket.

The Shaktoolik River escapement for kings and chum salmon are within the range of escapements when commercial fisheries with mesh size restricted to 6 inches, or less, have historically been allowed in Subdistrict 5. Additionally, pink salmon abundance has been building and is sufficient to allow for commercial fishing based on the buyer's capacity.

Commercial fishing in subdistrict 6 will remain closed during this opening in Subdistrict 5. King and chum salmon escapements into the Unalakleet and North River are currently below escapement levels needed for those systems. Skipping a commercial period in Subdistrict 6 will allow for additional escapement of kings and chum to bolster the current escapements.

Permit holders are reminded to check with the buyer to make sure there is market for their catch.