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## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: August 15, 2022*

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## **COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN IN NORTON SOUND**

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing will be open for 48 hours in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, the Golovin, Elim, Norton Bay, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts. Fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 17, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 19. Nets are restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts. In Subdistricts 5 and 6, king salmon may not be sold but can be retained for personal use and must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of delivery.

Escapement goals for chum salmon have been attained in Norton Sound and the run is nearing completion for the season. Silver salmon continue to build in Norton Sound and have exceeded chum salmon catch in the commercial harvest; thus, the department has transitioned to management based on silver salmon abundance. Escapement and commercial catches are lagging recent years but are within the range of harvests and escapements prior to the large runs experienced in the most recent 10-year average.

Most Norton Sound salmon escapement counting projects are operational again after being knocked out by high water with the exception of the North and Shaktoolik Rivers. The department thanks Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation for over two decades of operating and supporting numerous salmon counting projects throughout Norton Sound.

Subsistence set gillnet fishing in marine waters of Subdistrict 1, the Nome Subdistrict, will be open to subsistence fishing 7 days per week 24 hours per day beginning at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 16 with gillnets restricted to 300 feet or less. The subsistence fishing schedule remains in effect in the freshwaters of the Nome Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays till 6:00 p.m. Mondays with nets restricted to 50 feet in length and blocking no more than ½ of any channel. Additionally, beach seines are no longer permitted for subsistence fishing in the waters of the Nome Subdistrict.

Current salmon escapement in from operational projects in Norton Sound:

Inglutalik River: 180 kings, 6,200 chums, 40,000 pinks, 300 silvers  
Kwiniuk River: 36 kings, 9,400 chums, 412,000 pinks, 15 sockeyes, 1,900 silvers  
Niukluk River: 42 kings, 37,000 chums, 305,000 pinks, 900 sockeyes, 390 silvers  
Nome River: 4 kings, 1,900 chums, 45,000 pinks, 13 sockeyes, 200 silvers  
Pilgrim River: 31 kings, 4,800 chums, 6,200 pinks, 1,500 sockeyes, 2 silvers  
Snake River: 3 kings, 4,300 chums, 46,000 pinks, 360 sockeyes, 52 silvers  
Unalakleet River: 110 kings, 12,600 chums, 380 reds, 2,300 silvers  
Ungalik River: 890 kings, 16,500 chums, 618,000 pinks, 42 sockeyes, 5,600 silvers.