

GENERAL REGULATIONS - PERSONAL USE FINISH FISHERIES

ONLY ALASKA RESIDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PERSONAL USE FISHERIES, AS DEFINED ON PAGE 4.

Nonresidents may not participate in personal use fisheries. Nonresidents may not handle, or clean fish harvested in a personal use fishery and nonresidents may not handle any of the gear or operate a boat that is being used for personal use fishing.



“Personal use” is taking, fishing for, or possession of finfish, shellfish, or other fishery resources, by Alaska residents for personal use and not for sale or barter, with gill or dip net, seine, fish wheel, long line, or other means defined by the Board of Fisheries.

- **In all personal use fisheries, a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the resident angler is under 18):**
 - For resident anglers aged 18 to 59, a resident Alaska sport fishing license must be in possession of the person who is personal use fishing.
 - For Alaska resident anglers 60 or older and for Alaska resident disabled veterans, the ADF&G PID card or DV card must be in possession of the person who is personal use fishing.
- In some personal use fisheries, a permit is required in addition to the sport fishing license. Personal use permits are available on the ADF&G online store at <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> and through the ADF&G mobile app.
- Salmon sport fishing bag and possession limits are in addition to those allowed under personal use fishing regulations.

Permits are required for personal use fisheries on the Kenai, Kasilof, and Susitna rivers, and Fish Creek; and for the Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet fishery.

- You must have a current year’s Alaska resident sport fishing license (or the ADF&G Permanent ID or DV card) to obtain a permit.
- **Only one permit per household, not one permit per person.** “Household” means a group of people living under the same roof in the same residence.
- For fisheries that require a permit, it must be in your possession while taking or transporting fish. All fish must be recorded on your permit **before** leaving the fishing site.
- A permit is not required for the China Poot Creek personal use fishery.
- Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet fishery permits are only available on the ADF&G online store at <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> from August 1 until the fishery closes. Contact the Homer office at (907) 235-8191 for more info.
- The Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit, which applies to personal use fisheries on the Kenai, Kasilof, and Susitna rivers, and Fish Creek are only available online at <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> or through the ADF&G mobile app.
- **Yearly harvest limits for Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit:**
 - 25 salmon (except king salmon) for head of household and 10 for each additional member. See Kasilof gillnet and Kenai personal use fisheries for exception to king salmon retention.
- **Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon harvest and participation must be reported online no later than August 31,** whether you went dipnetting or not through the ADF&G mobile app or through the ADF&G online harvest reporting webpage at <https://harvest.adfg.alaska.gov>.
- Permit holders who fail to report as required by 5 AAC 77.015(c), will be denied an Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon permit the following year and may be subjected to a \$200 fine.



A person may not possess salmon taken under a personal use salmon fishing permit unless both tips of the tail fin have been immediately removed from the salmon.

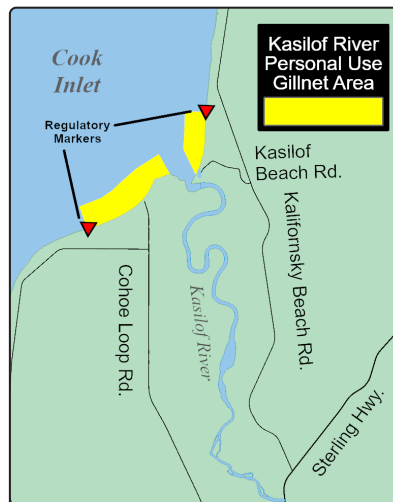
- Both tips of the tail fin must be clipped immediately upon harvesting the fish.
- All fish harvested (salmon and flounder) must be recorded on the permit, in ink, **immediately** upon harvesting the fish.
- The definitions of immediately below apply only to the personal use fishery and **DO NOT** apply to recording king salmon (or other fish) taken in the sport fishery on the sport fishing license or harvest record.
- **When fishing from shore:** Immediately means before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.
- **When fishing from a boat:** Immediately means before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.

KASILOF RIVER GILLNET FISHERY

- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a resident sport fishing license. **Check for emergency orders.**
- **June 15-June 24:** Open to gillnet fishing. Fishing is only allowed between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. each day.
- **Open Area:** Salt waters about 1 mile north and south of the Kasilof River mouth, as defined by ADF&G markers. Fishing prohibited beyond 1 mile from the mean high water mark, and is also prohibited within the flowing waters or over the stream bed or channel of the Kasilof River at any stage of the tide.
- Any king salmon caught may be retained.

NEW Only one set gillnet per household may be fished. A set gillnet is a gillnet that has been intentionally set, staked, anchored, or otherwise fixed. Set gillnets may not exceed 10 fathoms (60 feet) in length, **4¾ inches in stretched mesh size, and 29 meshes in depth.** A minimum distance of 100 feet must be maintained between nets. Each personal use fisherman must write their first initial, last name, and home address on any keg or buoy attached to a gillnet. A keg or buoy attached to a gillnet must also be inscribed with the name or the AK number of the vessel used to operate the gillnet.

- The permit holder (or a household member named on the permit) must be physically present at the fishing site at all times when the gear is being fished.
- Net sites are strictly on a “first come, first served” basis. The placement of signs, running lines, buoys, or dry nets on the beach in anticipation of incoming tides does not constitute any prior right to a net location. Sites are established only when the net actually enters the water.

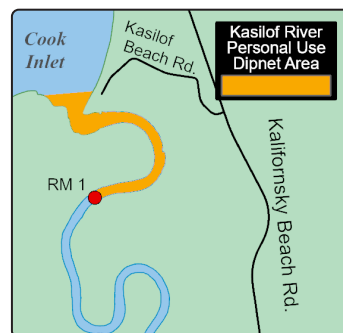


KASILOF RIVER DIPNET FISHERY

- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a resident sport fishing license. **Check for emergency orders.**
- **June 25-August 7:** Open to personal use fishing. Fishing is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

NEW **NO RETENTION of king salmon is allowed. All king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.**

- **Open Area:** From a straight line across the river mouth between ADF&G markers posted on Cook Inlet outside of the mouth of the Kasilof River, to about 1 mile upstream to ADF&G markers.
- Fish may be taken from the bank or from a boat.
- There are no motor restrictions in the Kasilof River personal use area during the Kasilof personal use dates.

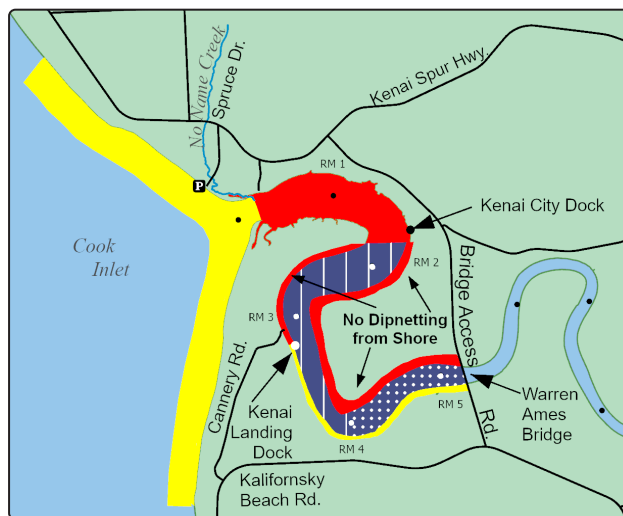


KENAI RIVER DIPNET FISHERY

- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a resident sport fishing license. **Check for emergency orders.**
- **July 10-July 31:** Open to personal use fishing. Fishing is only allowed between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. each day.

NEW **NO RETENTION of king salmon is allowed. All king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.**

- **Open Area from Shore:** From the commercial fishing markers located in Cook Inlet north and south of the river mouth, upstream to a line from No Name Creek to regulatory markers located on the south bank of the Kenai River and a section on the south bank from the Kenai Landing dock upstream to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge.
- **Open Area for Boats:** From ADF&G markers near the Kenai City Dock upstream to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge. Fish MAY NOT be taken from a boat powered by a two-stroke motor, other than direct fuel injection (DFI).



- Open to dipnetting from the shore.
- Closed to dipnetting.
- Open to dipnetting from a boat. No HP limitation.
- Open to dipnetting from a boat. 50 HP limitation.

Dip net specifications for all personal use fisheries:

By regulation, a dip net is defined as a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame. The maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed 5 feet. The depth of the bag must be at least one-half the greatest straight-line distance as measured through the net opening. No portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4½ inches. The frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand.

CHINA POOT DIPNET FISHERY

- No permit is required, **but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is an Alaska resident who is under 18), or one who holds a valid PID or DV card.**

 **June 15-August 15:** Sockeye salmon may be taken in China Poot Creek (on the south shore of Kachemak Bay) upstream of ADF&G markers.

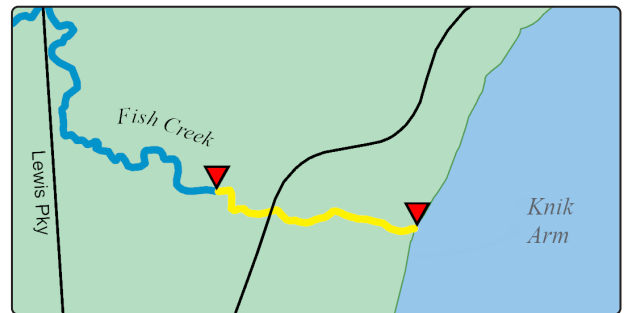
- The bag and possession limits are 6 sockeye salmon per person per day. Only sockeye salmon may be retained.
- Both tips of the tail fin must be clipped before you leave the waters open to personal use fishing or before concealing the fish from plain view.

KACHEMAK BAY COHO SALMON GILLNET FISHERY


- **A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.** Permits are available through the ADF&G online store at <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> from August 1 until the fishery closes.
- A household may have either **ONE Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use** or **ONE Kachemak Bay Coho Salmon Gillnet** permit each year. Not both permits in the same year.
- The permit holder (or a household member named on the permit) must be physically present at the fishing site at all times when the gear is being fished.
- The yearly harvest limit is 25 salmon for the permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member.
- Gear is a 35 fathom gillnet. Mesh size may not exceed 6 inches. Depth of the net may not exceed 45 meshes.
- No part of a set gillnet may be operated within 600 feet of another set gillnet. No person may operate more than one set gillnet. No part of a set gillnet may be set or operated more than 500 feet from the mean high water mark. No set gillnet may be set seaward of another set gillnet.
- The first period of the fishery will open at 6 a.m. on **Monday, August 19, 2024.** The fishery will continue to operate in 48 hours periods, open from 6 a.m. Monday through 6 a.m. Wednesday, and 6 a.m. Thursday through 6 a.m. Saturday, until the fishery is closed by emergency order or closes by the regulation date which is September 14.
- The fishery will close by an emergency order when a final harvest of 1,000 to 2,000 coho salmon is anticipated.
- Both tips of the tail fin must be removed before you leave the waters open to personal use fishing or before concealing the fish from plain view.
- Permit holders are encouraged to call in and report their catches on a daily basis by phone. Please call (907) 235-1738.
- Permit holders are required to report online at <https://harvest.adfg.alaska.gov> when the fishery closes or by turning in their physical harvest report to the ADF&G Homer office.
- Contact the Homer ADF&G office at (907) 235-8191 if you have questions.

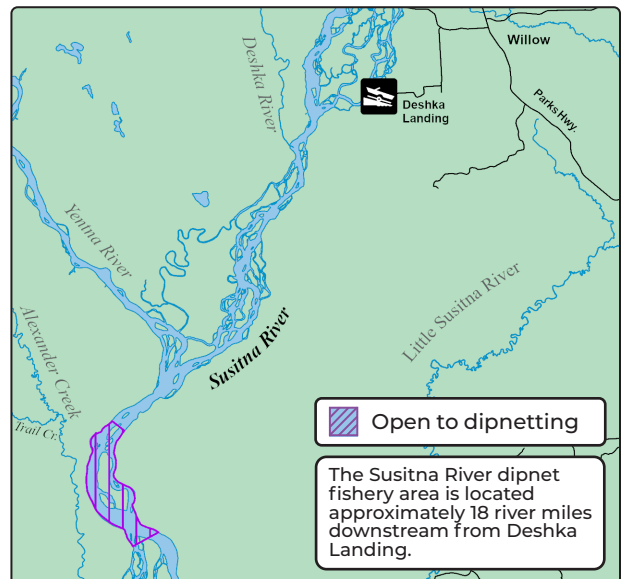
FISH CREEK DIPNET FISHERY

- **Opened ONLY by Emergency Order.**
- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a resident sport fishing license.
- **NO RETENTION of king salmon is allowed.**
- **Open Area:** Upstream from ADF&G markers posted on both sides of the terminus of Fish Creek to markers posted about ¼ mile upstream from Knik-Goose Bay Road. Dipnetting may occur from a boat or the shore.
- Personal use fishing is only allowed between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. on days when this fishery is open.



SUSITNA RIVER DIPNET FISHERY

- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a resident sport fishing license.
- This fishery is only accessible by boat or airplane.
- **July 10-July 31:** Open to personal use fishing only on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. each day.
- **NO RETENTION of king salmon is allowed.**
- **Open Area:** Between the ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 1 mile downstream from Susitna Station, downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located near the northern tip of Bell Island/Alexander Creek cut off.
-  **Dipnetting in and around the mouth of Anderson Creek is prohibited.**
- Dipnetting from a boat is permitted in the area open to dipnetting.
- **Any northern pike caught must not be released live back into the water.**



HERRING FISHERY

- No permit is required, **but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is a resident of Alaska who is under the age of 18), or one who holds a valid PID or DV card.**
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use herring.
- Herring may be taken for personal use and in some areas with dipnets, cast nets, or gillnets. See below for more info.



COOK INLET AND NORTH GULF COAST:

- Gillnets may not be used to harvest herring in Turnagain Arm (salt waters east of a line from Point Possession to Point Campbell).
- In Cook Inlet north of Anchor Point and in the North Gulf Coast including Resurrection Bay, herring gillnets may not exceed 20 feet in length, 2 inch stretch mesh. South of Anchor Point, gillnets may not exceed 50 feet in length, 2 inch stretch mesh. A gillnet must be attended at all times when being used to take fish.
- Cast nets may be used only in Cook Inlet south of Anchor Point to the North Gulf Coast salt waters west of Cape Fairfield. See map on the right. See cast net definition on page 94.
- **April 1-May 31:** Open season in salt waters north of Anchor Point.
 - Herring may be taken for personal use with gillnets or dipnets.
- **Resurrection Bay and Cook Inlet salt waters south of Anchor Point:**
 - Personal use fishing for herring is open year-round.

CAST NETS MAY BE USED TO TAKE HERRING ONLY IN HIGHLIGHTED AREA



PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND:

- In Prince William Sound, herring may only be harvested with standard sport fishing gear.
- See "Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt" on page 7 for more info.

HOOLOGAN (SMELT) FISHERY

- No permit is required, **but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is a resident of Alaska who is under the age of 18), or one who holds a valid PID or DV card.**
- **April 1-May 31 (salt water):** Open to personal use fishing.
- **April 1-June 15 (fresh water):** Open to personal fishing.
- Hooligan may be taken by dipnet in any fresh or salt water.
- There is no bag or possession limits for personal use hooligan.
- See also "Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt" on page 7.



KENAI RIVER:

- No permit is required, **but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is a resident of Alaska who is under the age of 18), or one who holds a valid PID or DV card.**
- **April 1-June 15:** Dipnets may be used to harvest hooligan throughout the Kenai River.
- **April 1-June 15 (fresh water):** Small drift gillnets may be used to take hooligan in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located at Cunningham Park.
- No drift gillnet may exceed 20 feet in length, 4 feet in depth, and 1½ inches mesh size. The drift gillnet must be attended while it is in the water.
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use hooligan.
- See also "Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt," on page 7 for more info.

HOOLOGAN HOTLINE

FOR THE LATEST INSEASON HOOLOGAN FISHING REPORT CALL THE HOOLOGAN HOTLINE AT (907) 267-2505.

This fishing report hotline includes hooligan fishing reports for the Anchorage, Palmer, and Soldotna areas.