

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Douglas Vincent-Lang, Acting Commissioner
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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 1
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-01-19**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 1 closes the directed king salmon commercial fishery in all waters of the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet for the 2019 season. The fishing dates affected by this closure are May 27, and June 3, 10, 17, and 24.

The 2019 pre-season run forecast for Deshka River king salmon is approximately 8,500 age 1.2–1.4 fish, which is below the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 13,000–28,000 fish. Based on the forecast, the actual run to the Deshka River will not be large enough to achieve the SEG; therefore, commercial and sport fisheries that harvest Deshka River king salmon will be closed for the 2019 season.

The department issued emergency order (EO) No. 2-KS-2-05-19 closing the entire Susitna River drainage, including the Deshka River, to sport fishing for king salmon. Consistent with 5 AAC 21.366 (10) *Northern District Directed King Salmon Management Plan*, when the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commissioner shall close, by EO, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under the plan.

The objective of these restrictions and closures is to ensure sustainability and provide for future yields of these stocks. Data gathered from weirs, guide logbooks, fishwheels, boat surveys, and aerial surveys will be used to gauge run strength during the season and, fishing opportunity may be restored where and when possible while ensuring escapement goals are achieved.

Subsistence king salmon fisheries in the Tyonek Subdistrict and Upper Yentna River, which are each open three days a week by regulation, are being restricted to two days per week during the respective subsistence fishery seasons. This shares the burden of conservation across all user groups while recognizing a subsistence priority.

The Northern District set gillnet commercial fishery is scheduled to open for the regular fishing season from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, beginning on Thursday, June 27, 2019, unless closed or modified by subsequent EO.