

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



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**2019 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 1
Alaska Board of Fisheries Actions: Kuskokwim Area**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met in Anchorage from January 15–19, 2019 to consider proposals concerning the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim areas. Proposals submitted to the board related to the Kuskokwim Area were heard and deliberated on. The following are important changes that will be in effect beginning in 2019.

Dip Nets

The board passed a proposal that established dipnets as a legal subsistence salmon fishing gear type. This will allow subsistence users the opportunity to use a dipnet to catch salmon at any time, not just during times of Chinook salmon conservation. However, the department will still have the ability to require the live release of Chinook salmon, if needed.

Gillnets

The board passed a proposal that reduces the distance that gillnets must be separated from one another from 150 feet to 75 feet. This change only affects gillnet operations within tributaries of the Kuskokwim River that are located from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River. This does not affect gillnet operations within the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.