

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



*Douglas S. Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner
Sam Rabung, Director*



Contact:
Aaron Tiernan, Area Management Biologist
Ben Gray, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 543-2433
Toll Free: 855-933-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021

Kuskokwim Area Office
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Date Issued: June 10, 2019
Time: 12:22 p.m.

**2019 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #5
Emergency Orders; #3-S-WR-04-19**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area. The following subsistence fishery openings were supported by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Group at the recent public meeting on June 5, 2019 held in Bethel.

From the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River: Sections 4 & 5

Subsistence fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth, will be allowed from 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 12, 2019 until further notice. Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line until further notice.

The waters of the Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak upstream to a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.308' N, long 159° 29.167' W and lat 61° 34.731' N, long 159° 28.939' W (Figure 1) will remain closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets until further notice. In addition, subsistence fishing with hook and line, dip nets, and beach seines will continue to be allowed in these waters, **but any Chinook salmon caught with these gear types must be returned immediately to the water alive.** These closed waters are in place to help provide protection for Chinook salmon bound for the Aniak River drainage.

As previously announced, subsistence fishing with gillnets remains closed in the Aniak River.

A reminder to subsistence fishermen: All subsistence gillnets must have a keg or buoy attached to the net with the fisherman's first initial, last name and an address clearly written on it.

Federal Special Action

From June 1 through July 1, management of the king salmon subsistence fishery from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak (defined as the Federal Conservation Unit) will be under authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Federal Inseason Manager. For information regarding subsistence fishing within this area please contact USFWS at 907-543-3151 or 907-543-1008.

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.

-end-



Figure 1.— Map of Aniak area closed waters.