UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 14  
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-14-19

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 14 opens set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict within one-half mile of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21, 2019. Set gillnetting will also be opened within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line (60° 27.10' N. lat.) and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker (60° 30.49' N. lat.) located south of the Kenai River mouth; i.e., North Kalifornsky Beach statistical area (244-32) from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21, 2019.

Fishing in the above described waters is aimed at harvesting Kasilof River sockeye salmon while minimizing the harvest of Kenai River sockeye and Kenai River late run king salmon. Current Kasilof River sockeye salmon passage projects a final escapement of more than 342,000 fish for an on-time run, which would exceed the 340,000 Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) for this system. In the Kenai River, on-time run projections estimate a season-ending passage of approximately 1.0 sockeye salmon. The Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal is 1.0–1.3 million fish.

Commercial fishing with set gillnets in that portion of the Western Subdistrict of the Central District south of the latitude of Redoubt Point remains open from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2019 as announced in UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 9.

The Kenai River late-run king salmon sport fishery was restricted to fishing with no bait beginning on July 1, 2019. According to 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(A) Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan, if the use of bait is prohibited in the sport fishery, commercial fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, excluding the East Foreland Section, are open for no more than 48 hours per week beginning July 1, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. With regularly scheduled fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays no longer in effect in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, except for
the East Foreland Section, any and all fishing time provided to this set gillnet fishery may occur only via EO beginning July 1, 2019. With this announcement, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery south of the East Foreland Section will have fished 14 of the available 48 hours for the management week of July 21 through July 27.

As a reminder, UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4 implemented gear restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, except for the East Foreland Section, from July 1–31, 2019, unless superseded by subsequent EO. The specific gear restrictions are identified in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(A)(i), where it states that if bait is prohibited in the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery in order to achieve the SEG, then the number of set gillnets operated in the Kenai and Kasilof section set gillnet fishery may also be restricted to no more than four set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length, 105 fathoms in aggregate length, and 29 meshes in depth, or no more than two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. Set gillnets that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at one end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter. Set gillnet mesh size regulations do not change under these restrictions. These set gillnet gear restrictions will be in effect in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict beginning July 1, 2019.

Unless otherwise specified, all commercial fishing openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111 or by visiting the following website: https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/usa/anchorage