UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 33
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-33-19

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 33 opens set and drift gillnetting in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict of the Central District on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, August 16, 2019. The Chinitna Bay Subdistrict includes those waters west of a line from Spring Point to Sea Otter Point. During these fishing periods, the open area to drift gillnetting is east of a line from the crane on the south shore at 59° 50.07' N. lat., 153° 05.10' W. long., to the ADF&G regulatory marker on Glacier Spit at 59° 51.72' N. lat., 153° 07.84' W. long (5 AAC 21.330(c)).

An aerial survey of Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek was conducted on August 13, 2019. This survey produced an estimate of approximately 9,600 chum salmon resident in these streams. The chum salmon aerial survey sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek is 3,500–8,000 fish. Therefore, opening Chinitna Bay to set and drift gillnetting as described in this announcement is warranted.

Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for regular fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Chinitna Bay also remains open to set gillnetting for regular fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Finally, drift gillnet fishermen are reminded that 5 AAC 21.333(e)(1) prohibits the operation of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear when drift gillnetting is restricted to the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict. Furthermore, 5 AAC 39.240(a) states that a salmon fishing vessel may have aboard only one legal limit of salmon fishing gear.

Fish caught in Drift Areas 3 and 4 should be reported for statistical area 244-60, while fish harvested in Chinitna Bay should be reported for statistical area 245-10.