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Advisory Announcement
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 20
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-20-20

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 20 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Foreland sections of the Upper Subdistrict from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020.

As announced in UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4, gear restrictions are in place for all Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishermen from the beginning of the season through July 31, 2020. During the July 20 fishing period, legal gear in the entire Upper Subdistrict is restricted to no more than two set gillnets per permit that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or no more than one set gillnet per permit that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. As a reminder, any set gillnet that is not more than 29 meshes in depth as part of this restrictive provision must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter.

This announcement also extends drift gillnet fishing to the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point sections of the Central District from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020. By regulation, drift gillnets will be allowed in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020.

All other set gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet outside of the Upper Subdistrict, will fish the regularly scheduled period from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020 with the exception of the set gillnet fishery in that portion of the Western Subdistrict of the Central District south of the latitude of Redoubt Point, which is open from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020.

As a reminder, UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 19 reduced legal set gillnet gear in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet during the regularly scheduled fishing periods from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2020, and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday July 30. In the General Subdistrict, of the Northern District, legal gear during these fishing periods will be reduced to no more than one net per permit, measuring no more than

35 fathoms in length. In the Eastern Subdistrict, of the Northern District, legal gear during these fishing periods will be reduced to no more than two set gillnets per permit, with each set gillnet measuring no more than 35 fathoms in length with the aggregate net length not to exceed 70 fathoms.

As of July 18, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is 58% complete based on average run timing and projects a final escapement of more than 438,000 fish. The biological escapement goal for Kasilof River sockeye salmon of 140,000 to 320,000 has been achieved. In the Kenai River, average sockeye salmon passage into the Kenai River is 29% complete through July 18, projecting an in river run of 970,000 to 1.86 million sockeye salmon based on average to 3 day late run timings. Fishing in the above described waters is warranted in order to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(C) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* restricts the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to no more than 24 hours per week, 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, any and all fishing time may occur only via EO. With this fishing announcement, 12 hours of the available 24 hours of EO time will have been used for the week of July 19–July 25.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>