

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 10, 2021

Time: 5:01 p.m.

CONTACT: Nick Smith and Ben Gray

**Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists
(907) 543-2709**

Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #4

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-04-21

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

Subsistence fishing with gillnets in the Kuskokwim River mainstem will be open during the following times:

Subsistence Sections 1-3 (Yukon Delta Refuge boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to Yukon Delta Refuge boundary near Aniak):

- Subsistence fishing will open from **6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on June 12. Below the Johnson River**, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 50 fathoms in length. **Above the Johnson River**, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 25 fathoms in length.
- Subsistence fishing will open from **6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on June 15. Below the Johnson River**, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 50 fathoms in length. **Above the Johnson River**, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 25 fathoms in length.

Note, beginning June 1, 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Federal Inseason Manager has closed the Kuskokwim River drainage from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak (defined as the Federal Conservation Unit) to the harvest of salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users. For information regarding Federal subsistence fishing regulations contact Yukon Delta NWR at 907-543-3151 or 907-543-1002.

In addition, the waters of the Kuskokwim River near Aniak, from a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.264' N, long 159° 33.459' W and lat 61° 35.611' N, long 159° 33.260' W upstream to the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Boundary at Aniak **will remain closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets beginning 12:01 a.m. June 12, 2021, until further notice.** Subsistence fishing with hook and line, fish wheels equipped with a live box or chute, beach seines, and dip nets is allowed, **but all Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive.**

As Previously Announced:

Subsistence fishing with gillnets will continue to be closed on the following tributaries until further notice:

- The Eek River drainage to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.
- The Kwethluk River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers located at its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages, including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G regulatory markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage, including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group:

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., by teleconference or in-person, at the Bethel ADF&G office. This meeting is open to the public. Please call 1-800-365-6338, passcode: 58756#, to attend via teleconference.

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>), local radio stations, and Kuskokwim River Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/KuskoRiverFishingADFG/>). Advisory Announcements will be faxed to area villages. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, subsistence and commercial fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:
ADF&G Bethel Office: Nicholas Smith 907-543-2709 or Ben Gray 907-543-2331

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