

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 18, 2021

Time: 4:20 p.m.

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**Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists
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Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #6

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-06-21

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

Subsistence Section 3:

- The Kuskokwim River from a line formed between two points lat 61° 20.333' N, long 160° 34.867' W and lat 61° 20.333' N, long 160° 41.05' W (**Kalskag Bluffs**) upstream to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary near Aniak **will open to subsistence fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth beginning 12:01 a.m. June 19, 2021 until further notice.**
- Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line **beginning 12:01 a.m. June 19, 2021 until further notice.**
- **Aniak Box:** 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 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.** 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.** These closed waters are in place to help provide protection for Chinook salmon bound for the Aniak River.

Subsistence Section 4 from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary near Aniak to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River mouth;

- **The household subsistence permit is no longer required to subsistence fish for any fish in Subsistence Section 4.**
- **Subsistence fishing will open with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth beginning 12:01 a.m. June 19, 2021 until further notice.**
- Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line **beginning 12:01 a.m. June 19, 2021 until further notice.**

As previously announced:

- Subsistence fishing with gillnets will continue to be closed in the Aniak River drainage to the ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 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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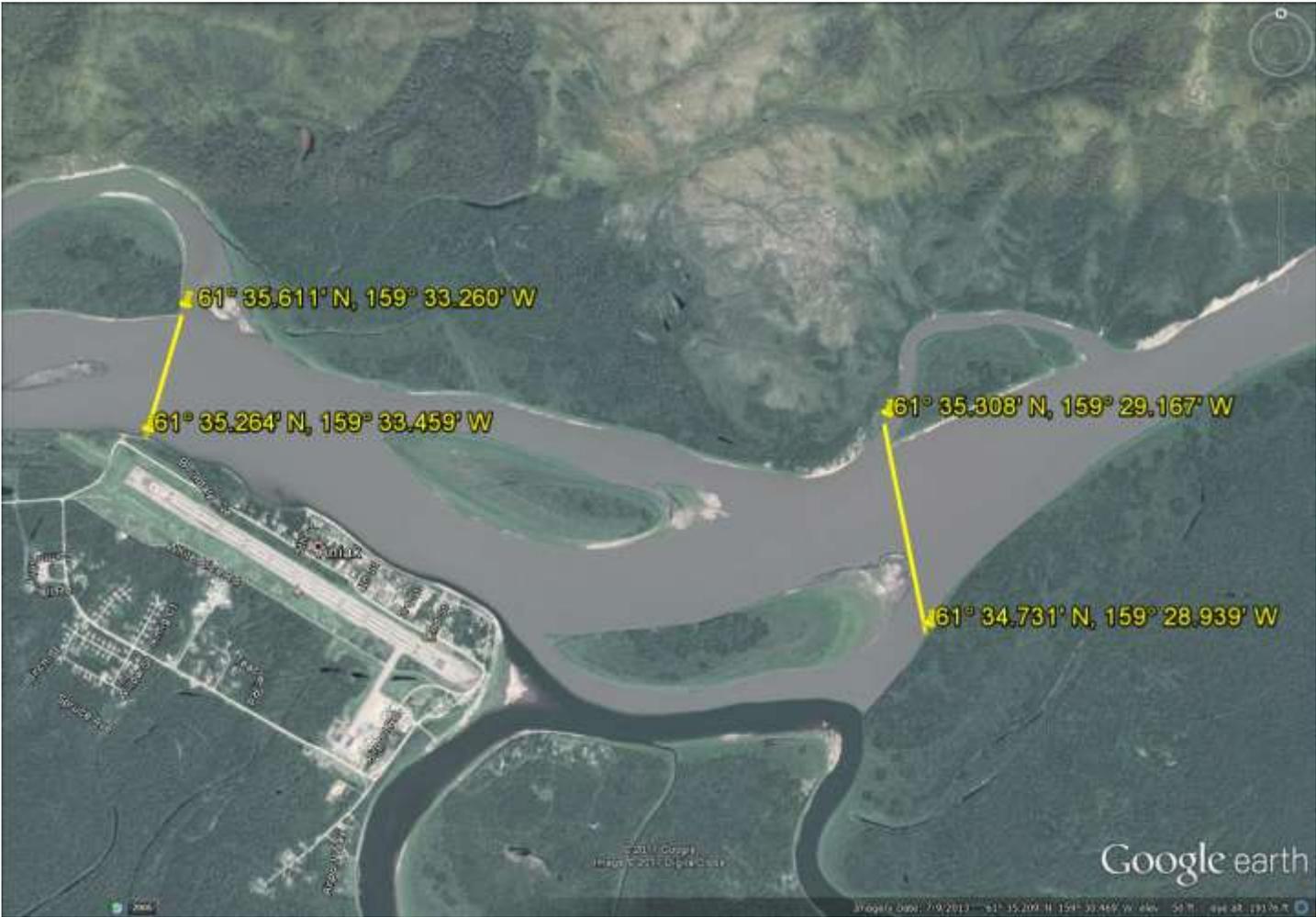


Figure 1.– Map of Aniak area closed waters.