

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Kuskokwim Area Office
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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 14, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Nick Smith and Ben Gray

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

Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #9

Salmon Commissioner's Permit Dipnet Fishery

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-09-21

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for commercial fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area. **There are currently no commercial salmon processors in the Kuskokwim River. To participate, a valid 2021 CFEC interim-use permit card for dipnets is required and individuals need to be registered with the department as catcher/sellers. There is currently one catcher/seller registered with a valid interim-use permit card.**

As of 7/13, the cumulative estimated sockeye salmon passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar is 590,000 fish, cumulative Bethel Test Fish index is 1,480, and approximately 88-95% of the sockeye salmon run has passed through the lower Kuskokwim River. Sockeye salmon runs of this magnitude are expected to meet or exceed the Kogruklu River weir escapement goal, while providing a surplus for harvest.

Commercial fishing with dipnets will open in Subdistrict 1-A for five 14-hour periods:

- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Thursday, July 15
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday, July 16
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday, July 17
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sunday, July 18
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday, July 19

***All king and chum salmon captured during these dipnet fishing periods must be returned to the water unharmed.**

Subdistrict 1-A: This area is defined as that portion of District 1 upstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to ADF&G regulatory markers at the mouth of Bogus Creek.

Dipnet Specifications:

- A dip net is a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame.
- The maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed five feet.
- The depth of the bag must be at least one-half of the greatest straight-line distance, as measured through the net opening.
- No portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4.5 inches.
- The frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand.

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 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 1-800-315-6338, 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: Nicholas Smith in Anchorage 907-543-2709 or Ben Gray 907-543-2331

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