



## **Advisory Announcement**

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**Toll free fishing schedule and counts: (866) 479-7387**

**In Fairbanks fishing schedule hotline: 459-7387**

### **2021 Yukon River Whitefish Commercial Fishery Announcement #2**

#### **Whitefish Commercial Fishery Schedule Update**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

### **Whitefish Commercial Fishery, Lower Yukon River**

The Lower Yukon River salmon assessment projects are complete for the season and very few salmon are entering the Yukon River, reducing the possibility of incidental harvest. Therefore, the whitefish commercial fishing opportunity is being relaxed to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets may be up to 150 feet in length.

The 2021 harvest quota for whitefish (Bering and least cisco) is 35,000 fish. Fishers who would like to participate in this commercial fishery should contact their buyer for information about buying times, locations and permits and must ensure they have a market before fishing. Commercial Participating fishers must have a 2021 F04B (Fresh Water Fish Set gillnet) permit which can be purchased through CFEC (1-855-789-6150). Individuals who possess a valid 2021 limited entry commercial fishing permit or a valid 2021 Crewmember's License may assist a fisher holding the F04B permit with fishing activities such as operating the gear or picking up and transporting fish. Fishers who are registered as catcher/sellers and whose catch freezes naturally are permitted to sell their catch without becoming a licensed catcher/processor. Contact the department at 907-459-7309 for catcher/seller details and registration.

### **Whitefish commercial fishery**

**District 1** (including the Black River and communities of Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

**Commercial fishing for whitefish (Bering cisco and least cisco) will open 24 hours a day, seven days a week effective 8 a.m. Friday, October 1.**

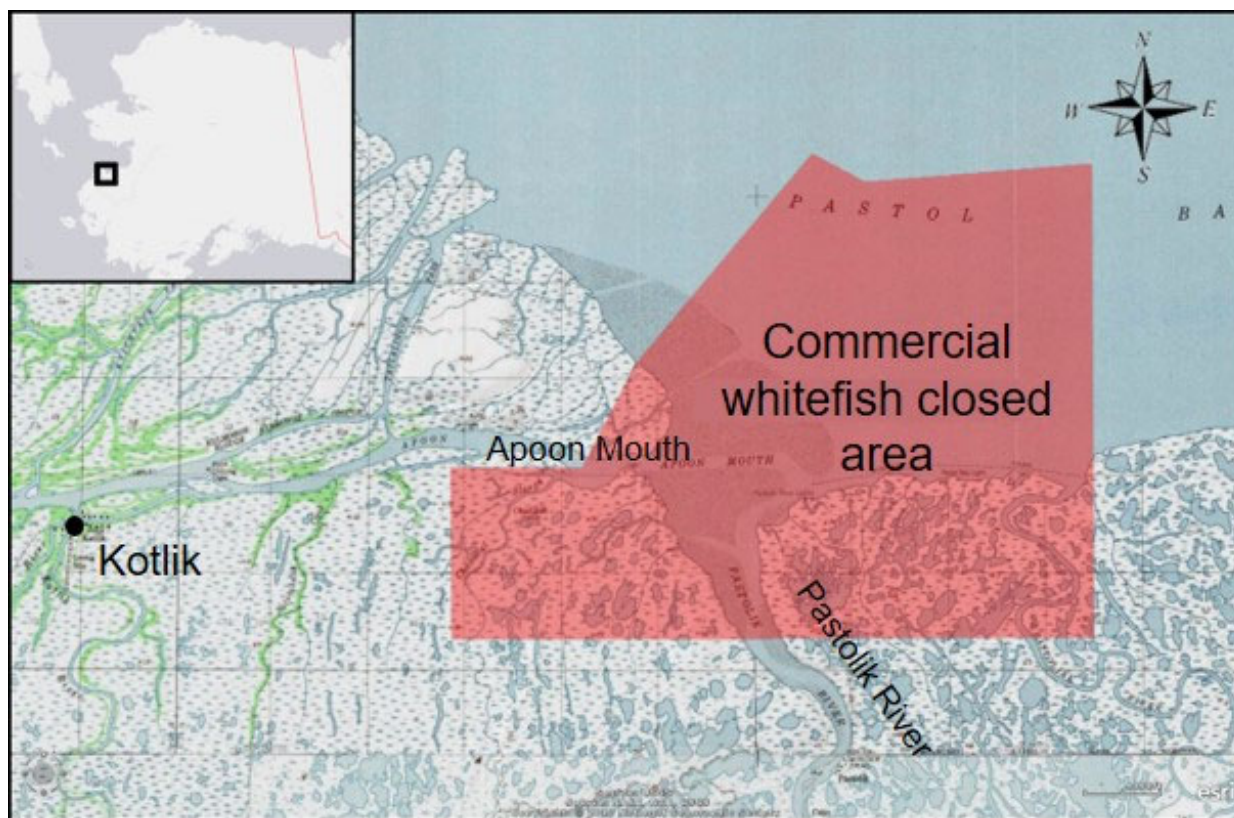
**Fishing gear may include hook and line, or 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets up to 150 feet in length.**

Salmon and other species such as sheefish or burbot caught incidentally in commercial whitefish gear may only be retained for personal use and must be recorded on a fish ticket as caught but not sold.

### **Closed waters**

Designated waters near Kotlik are closed to commercial whitefish fishing to protect traditional subsistence harvests. Waters of Apoon Pass, from its confluence with Chaniliut Slough extending to the northern shoreline of the Apoon Mouth, are closed to commercial whitefish fishing. This area includes Chaniliut Slough and waters draining the northern shoreline of the Apoon Mouth, including the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers (see map on next page).

The Pastolik and Pastoliak rivers, including 500 yards around their mouths, are closed to all commercial fishing.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager: 907-351-3029.

Announcements will be shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG](https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG)



## COVID-19

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/>.