



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: August 2, 2023

CONTACT: Colton Lipka
Upper Cook Inlet Area Management Biologist
(907) 262-9368

UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 32
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2-F-H-32-23

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 32 opens commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnets on Thursday, August 3, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in drift gillnet Area 1, the Expanded Kasilof, the Expanded Kenai, and the Anchor Point sections of the Central District.

As a reminder, drift gillnet fishing activity must remain at least one and one-half miles from the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River and at least one mile from the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River during additional and regulatory scheduled commercial fishing periods.

Harvest from the commercial fishing period on Tuesday, August 1 was less than 1% of the season total drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest. Should harvest from the commercial fishing period on Wednesday, August 2 also be less than 1% of the season total drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest, then the 1% rule will be in effect and future commercial drift gillnet fishing periods will be regulated to drift gillnet Areas 3 and 4.

Through August 1, the cumulative sockeye salmon escapement estimate for the Kasilof River was 721,047 fish and the current on-time projection of escapement is approximately 847,599 sockeye salmon. The biological escapement goal of 140,000–320,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded. In the Kenai River, the cumulative sockeye salmon sonar estimate is 1,327,969 sockeye salmon. The average sockeye salmon run timing into the Kenai River is approximately 61% complete through August 1, projecting an in river run of 2.1 million to 2.4 million sockeye salmon based on average to 3-day late run timings.

Fishermen and processors are reminded of the legal requirement to report all commercially harvested salmon on a fish ticket, whether sold or kept for personal use (home pack), using the correct statistical fishing area or areas.

Fish harvested in the drift gillnet fishery during this commercial fishing period should be reported in statistical area 244-60.