



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 12, 2023

Time: 4:00 p.m.

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**Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists
(907) 267-2379**

Kuskokwim River Fishery Announcement #4

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-4-23

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area. Effective 12:01 a.m. August 14, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be managing the Kuskokwim River drainage. The Federal In-Season Manager at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge rescinded all Federal fishing restrictions effective 11:59 p.m. August 13 (FSA-YD-23-02).

The Bethel test fishery cumulative CPUE on August 10 for coho salmon was 1,977 and the total coho salmon passage past the sonar was 198,000 fish. Inseason assessment at this time indicates that the coho salmon escapement goals at the Kwethluk River weir and Kogrukuk River weir will be met. On average, approximately 58% of the coho salmon run has passed through Bethel on August 10. By August 10, an average of 100% of the king salmon run, 100% of the sockeye salmon run, and 99% of the chum salmon run will have passed through Bethel. Therefore, relaxing subsistence fishing restrictions on the Kuskokwim River is warranted.

In the Kuskokwim River Drainage (Subsistence Sections 1-5, Mouth of Kuskokwim River to Headwaters) the following management actions will be in effect beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 14, 2023:

- **Subsistence fishing will open** with gillnets (set or drift) **until further notice** from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.
 - Gillnets may be up to 50 fathoms in length and unrestricted mesh size.
 - The waters around the mouth of the Aniak River (Aniak box) will be open to gillnets.
- Chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon may be retained while fishing with hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels, and beach seines within the Kuskokwim River.

As Previously Announced: Subsistence fishing with gillnets will remain closed in the following tributaries until 11:59 p.m. **Thursday, August 31, 2023.**

- The Eek River to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.
- The Kwethluk River drainage to its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik River drainages to their confluences with Old 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.

In addition: Live release requirements for Chinook salmon while fishing with hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels, and beach seines remain in effect within the Eek, Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, and Aniak rivers until 11:59 p.m. **Thursday, August 31, 2023.** Any Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive. Chum, sockeye, and coho salmon may be retained while fishing with hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels, and beach seines within these tributaries.

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.

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:
ADF&G Bethel Office: Nicholas Smith 907-267-2379 or Dave Runfola 907-543-2331

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