



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 15, 2024

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 31
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2-F-H-34-24

Commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnets will be open in State of Alaska waters of the Expanded Kenai section, Expanded Kasilof section, and the Anchor Point section from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Additionally, commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnets will be open in State of Alaska waters of the Expanded Kenai section, Expanded Kasilof section, and the Anchor Point section from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

Drift gillnet fishing is prohibited within 2-miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline in compliance with the *Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan (5 AAC 21.382)*.

Through July 14, the cumulative sockeye salmon escapement estimate for the Kasilof River was 463,288 fish and the current mean run timing projection of escapement is approximately 1,000,000 sockeye salmon which exceeds the biological escapement goal of 140,000–320,000 sockeye salmon. Through July 14, the cumulative sockeye salmon escapement estimate for the Kenai River was 353,432 fish and the current mean run timing projection of escapement is approximately 2,800,000 sockeye salmon which exceeds the inriver goal of 1,100,000–1,400,000 sockeye salmon. This commercial fishing period is warranted to harvest abundant sockeye salmon.

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 (5 AAC 39.130(c)(7)). Fish harvested in the drift gillnet fishery during the July 16 and July 17 fishing periods should be reported in statistical areas that fish are caught in except if fish are caught in the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof corridor, or Anchor Point section then use statistical area 244-57.

Please contact NOAA regarding fishing periods in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and federal fishery regulations at the NOAA Sustainable Fisheries Division at (907) 586-7228.

General Information for all UCI commercial fisheries and specifics about harvest levels, required permits, reporting requirements, or the registration processes, can be obtained by calling the Soldotna ADF&G staff at 907-262-9368, and also found at the ADF&G UCI commercial fisheries web site. <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareauci.main>