



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 17, 2024

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 33
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2-F-H-36-24

Commercial fishing with dip nets will be allowed in the East Foreland, Kenai, and Kasilof sections (statistical areas 244-21, 244-22, 244-31, 244-32, 244-41 and 244-42; Figure 1) from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024 and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2024.

Through July 16, the cumulative sockeye salmon escapement estimate for the Kasilof River was 487,636 fish and the current mean run timing projection of escapement is approximately 995,000 sockeye salmon which exceeds the biological escapement goal of 140,000–320,000 sockeye salmon. Through July 16, the cumulative sockeye salmon escapement estimate for the Kenai River was 405,517 fish and the current mean run timing projection of escapement is approximately 2,350,000 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.

This fishing period is consistent with opportunity provided by the recently adopted *Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan* that allows commercial dip net fishing based upon sockeye salmon abundance. Permit holders will need to register their permits to fish in the Upper Subdistrict at the local ADF&G office prior to fishing.

5 AAC 21.382. *Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan* stipulates:

(5) From June 20 through July 31;

(A) allow for the use of dip nets as an alternative gear type for holders of a SO4H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit;

(B) openings may occur outside of specified openings in this section based on abundance of sockeye salmon, as announced by emergency order, for not more than three 12-hour periods per week;

(C) a SO4H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit holder may operate not more than four dip nets at a time, each dip net must be operated by either the permit holder or an ADFG licensed crewmember;

(D) retention of king and coho salmon is prohibited

(E) fishing with a dip net may occur from a vessel or from shore; fishing from shore must occur at the location of a shore fishery tract identified in the recorded plat for that AS 38.05.082 lease; nothing in this subsection affects or changes the terms or conditions of an AS 38.05.082 lease and its lessee.

(h) The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) is closed to commercial fishing.

In 5 AAC 39.105 of the Alaska Administrative Code, a dipnet is defined as:

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

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 by viewing the ADF&G UCI commercial fisheries web site.

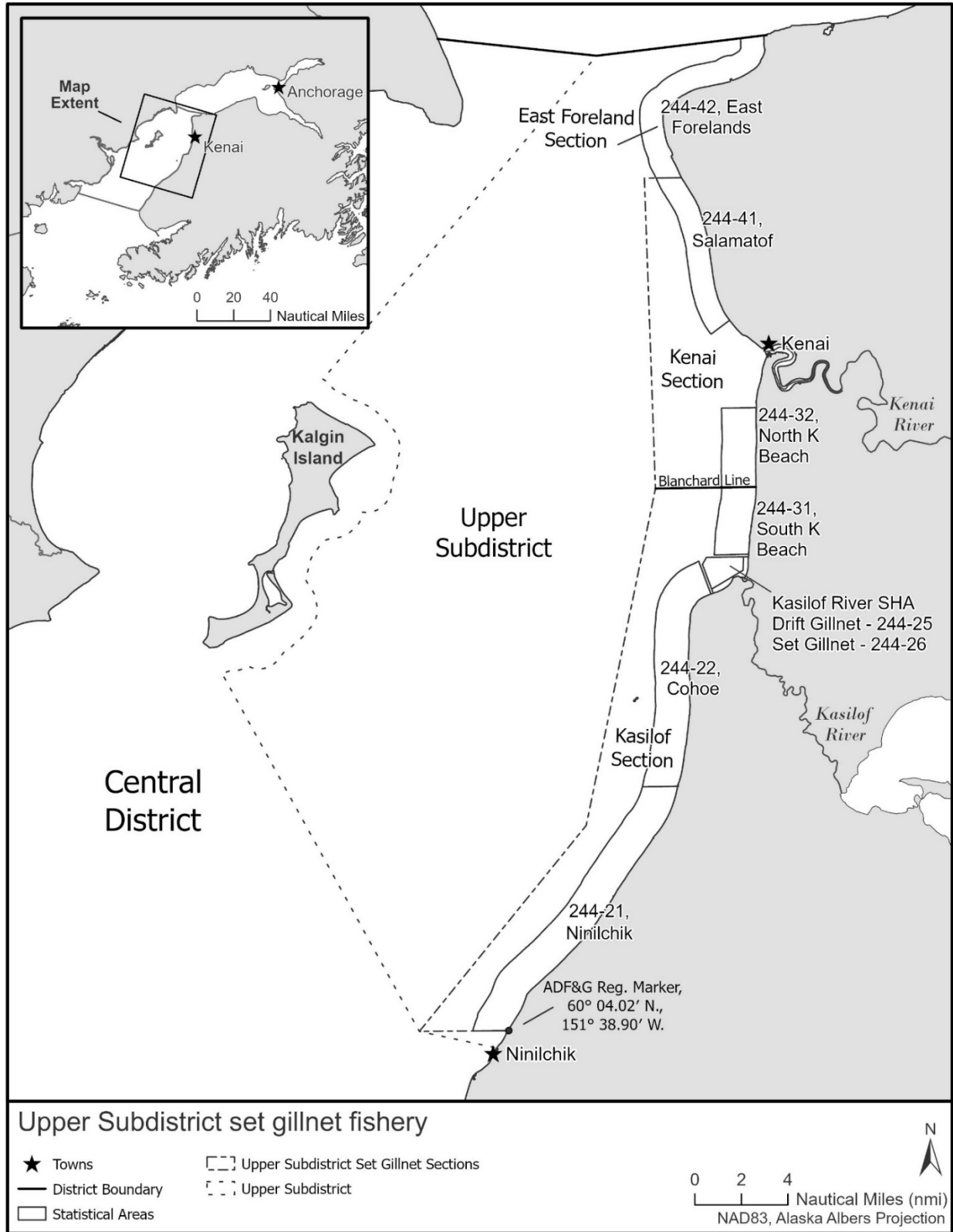
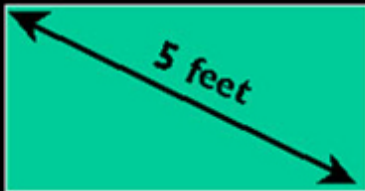


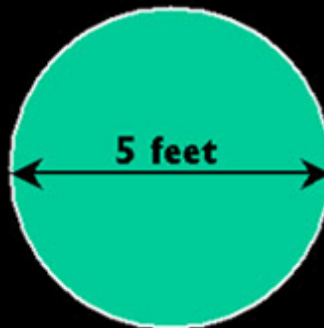
Figure 1. Map of Upper Subdistrict set gillnet and dipnet sections and statistical areas.

Legal dipnet size

A dipnet must not be larger than five (5) feet at its **WIDEST** point.



Measure square or rectangular nets on the diagonal.



Measure circular or oval nets straight across their widest point.



The depth of the bag must be at **LEAST** half the widest measurement of the opening.

A net with a 5 foot hoop must have a bag at least 2½ feet deep.

The bag can be deeper, but not shallower.

Figure 2. Diagram of legal dipnet size.