

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



## NEWS RELEASE

Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:  
Glenn Hollowell, Finfish Area Management Biologist  
Ethan Ford, Fisheries Biologist  
Phone: (907) 235-8191, Fax: (907) 235-2448

Lower Cook Inlet Area Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, AK 99603  
Date Issued: Friday, June 6, 2014, 2:00 PM

### Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #5

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT:** Within the Southern District, portions of the Barabara Creek Subdistrict, the Tutka Bay Subdistrict, the Halibut Cove Subdistrict and the Seldovia Bay Subdistrict opened to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing at 6:00 am on Monday, June 2 for a 48-hour period. Harvest from this period was 2,170 sockeye, 19 Chinook, and 27 chum salmon. Last years harvest from the first period was 1,777 sockeye, 20 Chinook, and 29 chum salmon. The five year average for harvests from the first fishing period is 1,100 sockeye, 28 Chinook and 36 chum salmon.

Set gillnet commercial fishing periods will continue on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week, from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 a.m. Saturday until further notice. Waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict, including both the Port Graham and English Bay sections, will remain CLOSED to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing until further notice as a precautionary measure to protect sockeye salmon returning to English Bay lakes and allow for adequate subsistence harvest to meet customary and traditional use amounts outlined in 5AAC 01.566(d). These areas may open to commercial harvest when escapement levels are consistently tracking to meet the sustainable escapement goal for English Bay Lakes as well as subsistence harvest needs.

As of yesterday, (6/5), a total of 138 fish had been counted at the English Bay River weir. This level of escapement is normal to slightly advanced for this date.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Cost recovery harvest of returning hatchery-produced sockeye salmon in Resurrection Bay began on Wednesday, May 21. An estimated 46,500 fish with an average size of 4.6 pounds have been harvested as of yesterday (6/5) of a total anticipated harvest of 62,000 fish for this season. The anticipated cumulative harvest for this date is 24,800 fish based on historic *normal* run timing where 40% of the total annual catch over the last 5 years have been harvested by 6/5. As of yesterday, a total of 3,036 sockeye have been counted at the Bear Creek weir versus an anticipated count of 488 fish based on *normal* run timing. The timing of this run overall appears to be approximately 7-10 days *advanced*.

Special Harvest Areas (SHAs) may be opened to commercial common property seining for sockeye or pink salmon in 2014 if the CIAA revenue goal of 2.9 million dollars and brood goals are achieved, or if their attainment can be projected. All other commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District remains CLOSED.

**KAMISHAK BAY DISTRICT:** In the Kamishak Bay District, all waters *with the exception* of the Chenik, McNeil, and Paint River subdistricts, opened at 6:00 A.M. on June 1 to commercial salmon seining seven days per week, until further notice. The Chenik Subdistrict is anticipated to open to commercial harvest when returns to Chenik Lake are tracking to achieve the SEG of 3,500-14,000 for that system. Video escapement monitoring equipment is anticipated was installed at Chenik Lake on Wednesday, June 4. The McNeil and Paint River subdistricts are being closed early as a precautionary measure specifically to protect sockeye salmon returning to Mikfik Lake. Sockeye salmon were observed in McNeil Cove on Thursday, May 22. Video equipment was installed on Friday, May 23. Through June 2, a total of 916 sockeye salmon had been counted entering Mikfik Lake. The Sustainable Escapement Goal range for this system is 6,300-12,150 fish. Video data from both Chenik and Mikfik lakes is anticipated to be retrieved next on Wednesday, June 11.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, June 13.**

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307. Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.