

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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P.O. Box 1467
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Date Issued: June 13, 2014
Time: 4:00 p.m.

**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #6
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-05-14**

**KUSKOKWIM RIVER SUBSISTENCE FISHING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCKEYE
AND CHUM SALMON**

Newly adopted emergency regulations by the Alaska Board of Fisheries allow the use of dip nets to harvest chum and sockeye salmon for subsistence use while conserving king salmon by requiring release of all king salmon unharmed. The initial fishing schedule with this new gear type will be as follows:

Mouth of the Kuskokwim River to Tuluksak:

Subsistence fishing with dip nets will be allowed for 12 hours daily, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning Sunday, June 15 until Monday, June 30, 2014. Any king salmon caught in a dip net must be returned immediately to the water unharmed.

This area is defined as, that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately half a mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth. This section includes the slough (locally known as Utak Slough) on the northwest side of the Kuskokwim River adjacent to the Tuluksak River mouth.

Tuluksak to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak:

Subsistence fishing with dip nets will be allowed for 12 hours daily, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, June 17 until Tuesday, June 30, 2014. Any king salmon caught in a dip net must be returned immediately to the water unharmed.

This area is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately half a mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary near Aniak. This section does NOT include the slough (locally known as Utak Slough) on the northwest side of the Kuskokwim River adjacent to the Tuluksak River mouth.

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group met on Thursday, June 6 and expressed support of providing additional subsistence fishing opportunity when chum and sockeye salmon became more abundant in the Kuskokwim River. Current data from the Bethel Test Fishery project indicates that abundance of chum and sockeye salmon is increasing in the lower river. The State of Alaska is providing opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon with dipnets while requiring the live release of any king salmon incidentally caught consistent with measures already taken in 2014 for the conservation of king salmon. The fishing schedule may change based upon inseason run assessment and input from fishermen.

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>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.