ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Westside Salmon Announcement 4 Emergency Order 6 and 7

This is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham with an announcement regarding subsistence and commercial fishing in the Nushagak District. This is Westside salmon announcement number 4 issued Sunday, June 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Subsistence fishing in the Nushagak Commercial Fishing District will close at 1:00 a.m. June 16. Subsistence fishing will reopen in the Nushagak Section only at 10:00 p.m. June 16. Subsistence fishing is always allowed during open commercial periods. Subsistence fishing on the Dillingham beaches is not affected by this closure.

Subsistence catches this morning indicate a strong unfished pulse of king salmon has moved through the district. Escapement is still significantly ahead of schedule, therefore, commercial fishing with drift gillnets in the Nushagak District will open for 10 hours from 6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. June 16. Mesh size for this opening is restricted to 7.5 inch mesh or larger. By regulation the district is open to the king salmon line.

The set gillnet harvest ratio of sockeye to king salmon in the previous opening was over 30 to 1. Based on the 5AAC 06.361 Nushagak-Mulchatna King salmon management Plan (b)(3) if the ratio exceeds 2 sockeye per king salmon harvested, the gear type may be excluded from subsequent directed king salmon openings.

As previously announced, commercial fishing with set gillnets in the Igushik Section of the Nushagak District will be allowed as follows: from 2:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. June 15 and from 3:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. June 16. Mesh is not restricted for Igushik Section set gillnet openings only.

Permit holders are reminded that they must register to fish with the department prior to fishing in the Nushagak District. Processors please note for the drift gillnet opening the stat code is 325-00. Informational updates and announcements are available by calling our recorded message line at 842-5226. This has been the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham.