

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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P.O. Box 1467
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**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #7
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-06-14**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

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 Chinook salmon by requiring release of all Chinook salmon unharmed. The initial fishing schedule with this new gear type will be as follows:

From the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak to the Headwaters of the Kuskokwim River:

Subsistence fishing with dip nets will be allowed for 12 hours daily, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning Thursday, June 19, 2014. Any Chinook salmon caught in a dip net must be returned immediately to the water unharmed.

Subsistence fishing with fish wheels will be allowed from 9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 19, 2014 until further notice. Fish wheels are required to have a live box with no less than 45 cubic feet of water, must be checked at least every 6 hours, and all Chinook salmon must be returned to the water alive. Hook and line fishing for Chinook salmon remains closed.

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group met on Thursday, June 5 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 Chinook salmon incidentally caught

consistent with measures already taken in 2014 for the conservation of Chinook 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.