ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 4 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-04-14

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2014.

5 AAC 21.310 (b)(2)(C)(i) *Fishing Seasons* states that the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery will open on the first Monday or Thursday on or after June 25 each year, unless 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before that date, at which time the fishery may open immediately by emergency order, but no earlier than June 20. As of 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 22, 2014, nearly 82,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to have passed the Kasilof River sonar site. This is the second largest cumulative escapement ever measured in the Kasilof River through this date. Therefore, this announcement opens the set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section in order to slow the rate of escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River.

The Central District is open to drift gillnetting by regulation from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2014. Drift gillnet fishermen are reminded that per this announcement the closure for the drift gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section within 2 miles of shore is no longer in effect. However, the two-mile from shore closure for drift gillnets in the Kenai and East Foreland Sections remains in effect until those areas open to set gillnetting for the regular season. From approximately one statute mile north of the Ninilchik boar harbor entrance at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 38.90' W. long. to the latitude of the Anchor Point Light at 59° 46.15' N. lat., drifting is closed for a distance of one statute mile from mean lower low water.

According to 5 AAC 21.331 (i) *Gillnet Specifications and Operations*, set gillnet fishermen in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District who own and operate two CFEC set gillnet permits may operate up to 210 fathoms of gear, except that no more than 105 fathoms may exceed 29 meshes in depth. Additionally, each set gillnet operated under this section with 29 meshes or less in depth must be identified at one end with a blue buoy that is 9.5 inches in diameter or greater.