

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:

Aaron Poetter, Area Management Biologist
Aaron Tiernan, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 543-2433
Toll Free: 855-933-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021

Kuskokwim Area Office
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Date Issued: June 28, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.

**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #12
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-11-14**

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

Tuluksak to Johnson River:

Subsistence fishing for chum and sockeye salmon will be allowed with gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh and **50 fathoms in length** from 10:00 a.m. Monday, June 30, 2014 until further notice.

Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk:

Subsistence fishing for chum and sockeye salmon will be allowed with gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh and **50 fathoms in length** from 10:00 a.m. Monday, June 30, 2014 until further notice.

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 a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk. 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.

Chuathbaluk to Holitna River:

Subsistence fishing for chum and sockeye salmon will be allowed with gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh and **50 fathoms in length** from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 30, 2014.

This area is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River mouth.

Tributary Closures:

The following tributaries of the Kuskokwim River will remain open to the use of gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh not to exceed 60-feet in length;

- The Kwethluk River drainage including its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough and downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream mouth of the slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

Current Management:

Subsistence fishing upstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River, remains restricted to gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh and 60 feet in length, fish wheels, and dip nets. Chinook salmon caught with fish wheels and dip nets must be returned to the water unharmed. Hook and line fishing for Chinook salmon remains closed Kuskokwim River drainage wide.

The current Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) data suggests the lower end Chinook salmon escapement goal range will be reached with continued conservative management approach to limit harvest of Chinook salmon while allowing for harvest of chum and sockeye salmon.

The run timing for Chinook salmon appears to have been early. This suggests that the majority of Chinook salmon have move past the BTF. Current BTF data indicates the ratio of chum and sockeye salmon to Chinook salmon continues to increase. Harvest information from the June 24 period indicates that ratios were near 20:1 using 6-inch mesh nets. The use of 6-inch mesh nets will provide fishing opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon while protecting Chinook salmon.

These management actions are in line with the conservation plan discussed with ADF&G, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, and the tribes of the Kuskokwim River in the previous 9 months. We recognize the users for their continued support and conservation efforts, and that the sustainability of these fisheries depends on our combined efforts.

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.