

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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P.O. Box 1467  
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Date Issued: July 1, 2014  
Time: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

##### **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. Thursday, July 3, 2014 until further notice.

##### **Holitna River to Headwaters of the Kuskokwim 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. Thursday, July 3, 2014 until further notice. Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear with a daily bag limit of 3 and no possession, season, or size limits will be allowed beginning 10:00 a.m. Thursday, July 3, 2014.

##### **Current Management:**

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 moved past the BTF. Current BTF data indicates the ratio of chum and sockeye salmon to Chinook salmon continues to increase. 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.