

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



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**2014 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release #1
Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-04-14**

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

District 4, Quinhagak

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

As of July 5, total passage through the Kanektok River weir is 123 king; 63,325 sockeye; and 1,819 chum salmon. King and chum salmon escapements are below average, while the escapement of sockeye salmon is highest on record for this time. ADF&G intends to fly an aerial survey in the coming weeks, weather permitting, to get an idea of how many fish are in the river below the weir site.

In District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 16 hours before, during, and 6 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Arolik and Kanektok rivers and waters of District 4 on Tuesday, July 8, at 5:00 p.m. Subsistence fishing will reopen on Wednesday, July 10, at 3:00 a.m.**

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

As of July 5, there have been 121 king; 24,066 sockeye; and 1,663 chum salmon have passed through the Middle Fork Goodnews River weir. The king salmon passage is well below average. Sockeye escapement is the third highest on record and the lower end of the escapement goal range has been achieved. Chum salmon escapement is slightly below average at this time.

In District 5 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 16 hours before, during, and 6 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Goodnews River and waters of District 5 on Tuesday, July 8, at 5:00 p.m. Subsistence fishing will reopen on Wednesday, July 10, at 3:00 a.m.**

Commercial fishing was delayed until now primarily because of an expected poor king salmon run. Subsistence fishermen in the area report their harvest of king salmon is nearly complete. The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for this upcoming commercial period. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages. Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state 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.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.