

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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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: July 17, 2014  
Time: 12:30 p.m.

**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #16  
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-16-14**

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

**Subdistrict 1-B**

**The Upper Section of Subdistrict 1-B will open to commercial salmon fishing for 6 hours from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Friday, July 18, 2014.** This area is defined as that portion of District 1 downstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of Johnson River.

**The Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B will open to commercial salmon fishing for 8 hours from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Friday, July 18, 2014.** This area is defined as that portion of District 1 from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of the Johnson River to the lower boundary of District 1, defined as a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut.

**Coastal Village Seafoods has agreed to not purchase king salmon during this commercial period. King salmon caught, but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.** The buyer requested a later start time.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. The area closed to subsistence fishing includes the subdistrict open to commercial fishing and a buffer area of the adjacent subdistrict. **Therefore, from 7:00 a.m. Friday, July 18 until 12:00 a.m. Saturday, July 19, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from the upper end of Straight Slough downstream to the mouth,** defined by a line from Apokak Slough to the southern-most tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut.

Following the *Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 07.365), the department manages for established escapement goals, subsistence priority, and allows for other uses when there is a surplus.

Based on historical Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) data, 98% of the king salmon and 97% of the sockeye salmon runs are through the lower river. Overall, subsistence fishing for sockeye and chum salmon in the lower river has come to an end. Escapements of king salmon at weir projects are above recent 5 year averages. The BTF data indicates that the chum salmon run is tracking slightly below average and that historically 80% of the chum salmon run is through the lower river to date. Escapements of chum salmon are near average and the Kogrukluk chum salmon goal is expected to be achieved.

The Department will closely monitor 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 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.