

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Date Issued: August 10, 2014  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #20  
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-19-14**

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

**Subdistrict 1-B**

**Subdistrict 1-B will open to commercial salmon fishing for 6 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 11, 2014.** This area is defined as that portion of District 1 downstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to the lower boundary of District 1, defined as a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut.

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 6:00 a.m. Monday, August 11 until 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 11, 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, 55% of the coho salmon run has passed through the lower Kuskokwim River. The BTF data indicates that the coho salmon run is tracking above the 5-year and 10-year averages. In addition, cumulative BTF index for 2014, to date, is approximately 1,000 index points above three of the last four years. As of August 9, the

BTF cumulative coho salmon index was 2,338 of which 1,265 or 54% of the 2014 coho salmon return, to date, has passed by Bethel in the last seven days. Based on projected swim speeds the front end of this group of coho salmon should be in the Kalskag area beginning August 11.

Subsistence catch rates in the middle Kuskokwim River have increased over the last week and should continue to improve as the bulk of the coho salmon return is anticipated to be moving upstream of Kalskag this week.

Kuskokwim River escapement monitoring projects have started passing coho salmon and while it is still early for coho salmon escapements projections for all weir projects are good.

The department will closely monitor commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and to assess the coho salmon run to meet escapement goals and provide for subsistence uses.

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 Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.