

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



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P.O. Box 1467
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Time: 9:30 a.m.

**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #23
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-22-14**

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 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 21, 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 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 21, 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.

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 4:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 21, 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.

Based on historical Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) data, 90% of the coho salmon run has typically passed through the lower Kuskokwim River at this date. The BTF data indicates that the coho salmon run is tracking above the 5-year and 10-year averages.

Kuskokwim River escapement monitoring projects have started passing coho salmon and escapements are tracking at or above, to date, compared to historical escapements.

Preliminary commercial coho salmon harvest for the August 18 Subdistrict 1-B fishing period was 26,395 fish which is above average compared to historical harvests. The total coho salmon harvested since August 11 is 83,203 fish.

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.