

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



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2015 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #6

This announcement is intended to summarize the current subsistence fishing management approach for waters of the Kuskokwim River Drainage from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak to the Headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.

Chinook salmon Directed Opportunity

The Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak to the Headwaters will open to subsistence salmon fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, 45 meshes deep, and not to exceed 10 fathoms in length, for Alaska residents 60 years of age or older, Saturday, June 20 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

An Alaska resident 60 years of age or older must be present at the setnet site or with the drift gillnet while in operation but may be assisted by family members within the second degree of kindred. A "second degree of kindred" means a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, brother- or sister-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, father- or mother-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepsister, stepbrother, stepson, or stepdaughter (5 AAC 92.990).

A gillnet longer than 10 fathoms may be used as long as only 10 fathoms is in a fishable condition and the remainder of the gillnet is either tied up or secured so that it is not in the water in a fishing condition.

Gillnets

Subsistence fishing with gillnets is restricted to gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh, 60 feet or less in length, and 45 meshes or less in depth. Gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh are restricted to set gillnets and must be operated within 100 feet of the ordinary high water mark (Figure 1). Gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh may only be operated during the following periods:

- 6:00 a.m. Thursday, June 18 until 6:00 a.m. Sunday, June 21;
- 6:00 a.m. Thursday, June 25 until 6:00 a.m. Sunday, June 28;
- 6:00 a.m. Thursday, July 2 until 6:00 a.m. Sunday, July 5.

No gillnets are allowed at any time in the Aniak River until further notice.

Subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook salmon remains closed until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught must be returned alive to the water.

Subsistence fishing with dip nets is currently allowed until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught in a dip net must be returned immediately to the water alive.

Subsistence fishing with fish wheels is currently allowed until further notice. Fish wheels are required to have a live box with no less than 45 cubic feet of water, must be checked at least every 6 hours. Fish wheels can be equipped with a chute and must be closely attended while in operation. All Chinook salmon must be returned alive to the water.

These management actions were taken in accordance with the *Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 07.365) and the Kuskokwim Area subsistence fishing regulations (5 AAC 01.270) (emergency orders 3-S-WR-02-15, 3-S-WR-02-15, 3-S-WR-04-15, and 3-S-WR-05-15).

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.

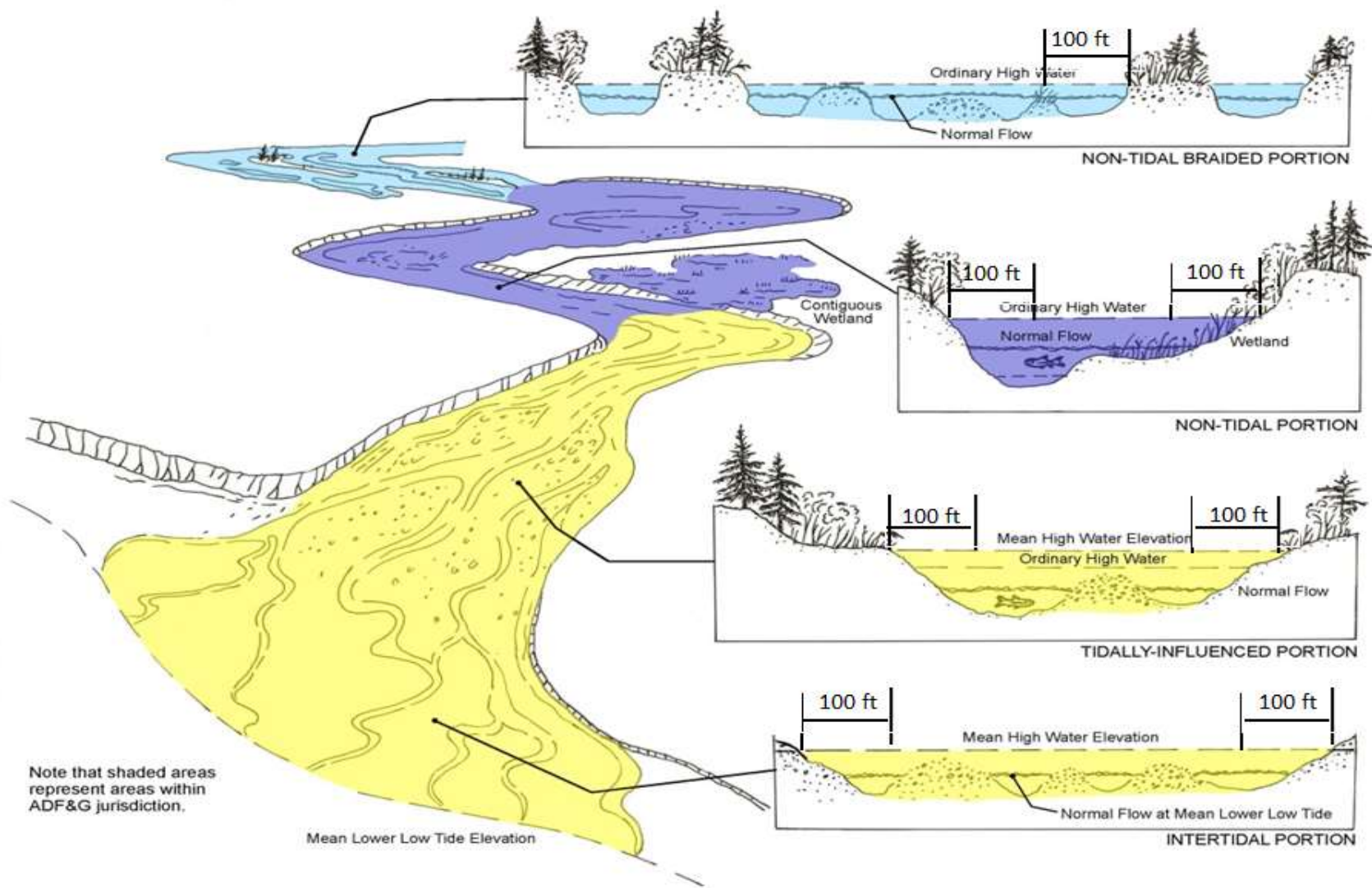


Figure 1.- Ordinary high water mark diagram.