

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Contact: Pat Shields, Area Management Biologist; 43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Suite B Phone: (907) 262-9368 Date Issued: June 21, 2015	Aaron Dupuis, Asst. Area Management Biologist Soldotna, AK 99669 Fax: (907) 262-4709 Time: 11:00 a.m.
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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 4**  
**EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-04-15**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2015. Drifting will be open in the Kasilof Section (not the Expanded Kasilof Section) from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2015.

5 AAC 21.310 (b)(2)(C)(i) *Fishing Seasons* states that the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery opens on the first Monday or Thursday on or after June 25 each year, unless 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before that date, at which time the fishery may open by emergency order, but not earlier than June 20. As of 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 22, 2015, more than 60,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to have passed the Kasilof River sonar site. This represents the second highest passage estimate in the past 10 years (2006–2015) through this date. Therefore, this announcement opens the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery in compliance with the aforementioned regulation and also with the objective of maximizing sockeye salmon harvest in order to reduce the rate of escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kasilof River.

The Central District is open to drift gillnetting by regulation from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2015. Drift gillnet fishermen are reminded that fishing is not allowed within two miles of the mean high tide mark on the eastern side of the Upper Subdistrict until those areas have opened for fishing with set gillnets (5 AAC 21.310(b)(3)(A)). In addition, salmon may not be taken from approximately one statute mile north of the Ninilchik boat harbor entrance at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 38.90' W. long. south to the latitude of the Anchor Point Light at 59° 46.15' N. lat., and extending offshore for a distance of one statute mile from mean lower low water (5 AAC 21.350 (b)(5)(B)). Finally, drifters are reminded that when set gillnetting is open, drifters may fish all the way to shore, but drifting is not allowed within 600 feet of any actively fishing set gillnet (5 AAC 21.335(a)).

Please keep in mind that the Kenai and East Foreland sections set gillnet fishery do not open by regulation until on or after July 8, so the two mile drift closure in this area remains in effect until these areas have opened to set gillnetting.

According to 5 AAC 21.331 (i) *Gillnet Specifications and Operations*, set gillnet fishermen in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District who own and operate two CFEC set gillnet permits may operate up to 210 fathoms of gear, except that no more than 105 fathoms may exceed 29 meshes in depth. Additionally, each set gillnet operated under this section with 29 meshes or less in depth must be identified at one end with a blue buoy that is 9.5 inches in diameter or greater.