

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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P.O. Box 1467
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Time: 4:30 p.m.

**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #9
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-11-15**

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

State Management

Effective 12:01 a.m. July 2, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be managing the salmon fishery in the entirety of the Kuskokwim River Drainage. Subsistence harvest opportunities announced by the State of Alaska will be provided to all qualified Alaska residents.

The following subsistence fishing restrictions will be in effect at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 2, 2015 for the Kuskokwim River Drainage from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak:

Subsistence fishing with gillnets will be closed on the Kuskokwim River and the following tributaries:

- The Kwethluk River drainage including its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough and downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream mouth of the slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G regulatory markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

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

Subsistence fishing with fish wheels will be 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.

Subsistence fishing with dip nets will be closed. The Kuskokwim River has transitioned from a Chinook salmon fishery to a predominantly chum and sockeye salmon fishery.

Subsistence fishing periods to harvest chum and sockeye salmon with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or less mesh size, will be announced at a later date. These fishing periods will be based on Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon abundance. Period scheduling, length of gillnets and duration for this gear type will be based on inseason run assessment and may be limited in time to reduce incidental harvest of Chinook salmon.

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.