

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



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2015 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery Update #1
Kuskokwim Bay Commercial Salmon Fishing and Escapement Monitoring

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for commercial salmon fisherman in the Kuskokwim Area.

Commercial Fisheries

District 4 (Quinhagak)

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 3, with a closed waters box around the mouth of the Kanektok River for the conservation of Chinook salmon. Preliminary harvest from that period was 3,116 Chinook, 4,764 sockeye, and 1,146 chum salmon. Chinook harvest was above average, while sockeye and chum harvests were below average.

District 5 (Goodnews Bay)

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 3, with half district for Chinook salmon conservation. Preliminary harvest from that period was 149 Chinook, 2,428 sockeye, and 316 chum salmon. Chinook, sockeye, and chum harvests were below average.

Inseason Assessment

The Kanektok River Weir has been in operation since June 22. As of July 6, total passage through the weir is 793 Chinook, 10,338 sockeye, and 1,114 chum salmon. Chinook salmon escapements are above average for this date, while the escapement of sockeye and chum salmon are below average.

The Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 6, total passage through the weir is 265 Chinook, 11,952 sockeye, and 601 chum salmon. Chinook, sockeye and chum salmon passage is below average.

Inseason indicators of salmon run strength include weir escapement projects, verbal subsistence catch reports, commercial catch statistics, and aerial escapement surveys. The Kanektok River Weir will cease operations in mid-August to address operational concerns caused by high water events common in August and September. The department would like to extend a big thank you to Coastal Villages Regional Fund for providing the funding needed to operate the Kanektok and Middle Fork Goodnews River weirs for the 2015 season.

Inseason escapement counts for the Kuskokwim Bay weirs can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.emihd>

Sport Fisheries

Sport fishing for Chinook salmon closed on April 1, 2015, by Emergency Order 3-KS-01-15, in all waters draining into Kuskokwim Bay south of the south bank of Warehouse Creek and north of Cape Newenham. In addition anglers may use only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure. The Kuskokwim Bay Chinook salmon sport-fishing season will close by regulation on July 26.

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