

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



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**2015 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 3
Emergency Order #3-S-WB-05-15**

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

District 4, Quinhagak

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2015. The open area for this period has been reduced. The closed waters will be south of a line at lat 59° 45.266' N, north of a line at lat 59° 44.7036' N, and east of a line at long 161° 57.616' W. This will create a closed waters box around the Kanektok River mouth. The box will be approximately 500 yards to the north and south of the river mouth and extend approximately one mile offshore. Please refer to Figure 1 for a visual of the closed waters box. There will be markers and buoys in place, but as a reminder, the GPS coordinates will be the legal definition of the closed waters. The remainder of District 4 will be open to commercial salmon fishing.

The fishing area of District 4 is being reduced temporarily for the conservation of Chinook salmon. The department has determined through communication with local fisherman that Chinook salmon mill near the mouth of the Kanektok River and move with the tides in and out of the river mouth. This closed waters box will provide a sanctuary for Chinook salmon during commercial fishing periods, while still allowing fisherman an opportunity to harvest more abundant sockeye salmon. ADF&G will assess the catches from Friday's period before making a decision on the next opening. Commercial salmon fishing periods will likely be spread out more until the middle of July due to Chinook salmon concerns. At that time, it is anticipated that the normal commercial fishing schedule will resume.

In District 4, the subsistence salmon fishing is closed 16 hours before, during, and 6 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the waters**

of District 4 by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. Subsistence fishing will reopen at 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 11.

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2015. The open area for this period is reduced. A boundary line will be in place, from approximately Big Beluga on the north side of the bay to Little Beluga on the south side of the bay. The boundary line is marked with buoys. District 5 will be open to commercial fishing from this line to the western boundary of District 5 on the outside of the North and South Spits. The outside boundary is marked by ADF&G regulatory markers on the beaches (Figure 2).

The open area of District 5 is being reduced temporarily for the conservation of king salmon. ADF&G has determined that catches of Chinook salmon on the Platinum side of the district are lower than catches on the Goodnews side of the district. This reduced area opening is an attempt to target abundant sockeye salmon while conserving Chinook salmon. ADF&G will assess the catches from Friday's period before making a decision on the next opening. Commercial salmon fishing periods will likely be spread out more until the middle of July due to Chinook salmon concerns. At that time, it is anticipated that the normal commercial fishing schedule will resume.

In District 5, subsistence salmon fishing is closed 16 hours before, during, and 6 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of waters of District 5 by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. Subsistence fishing will reopen at 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 11.**

The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for this upcoming commercial period. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages. Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state 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.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.

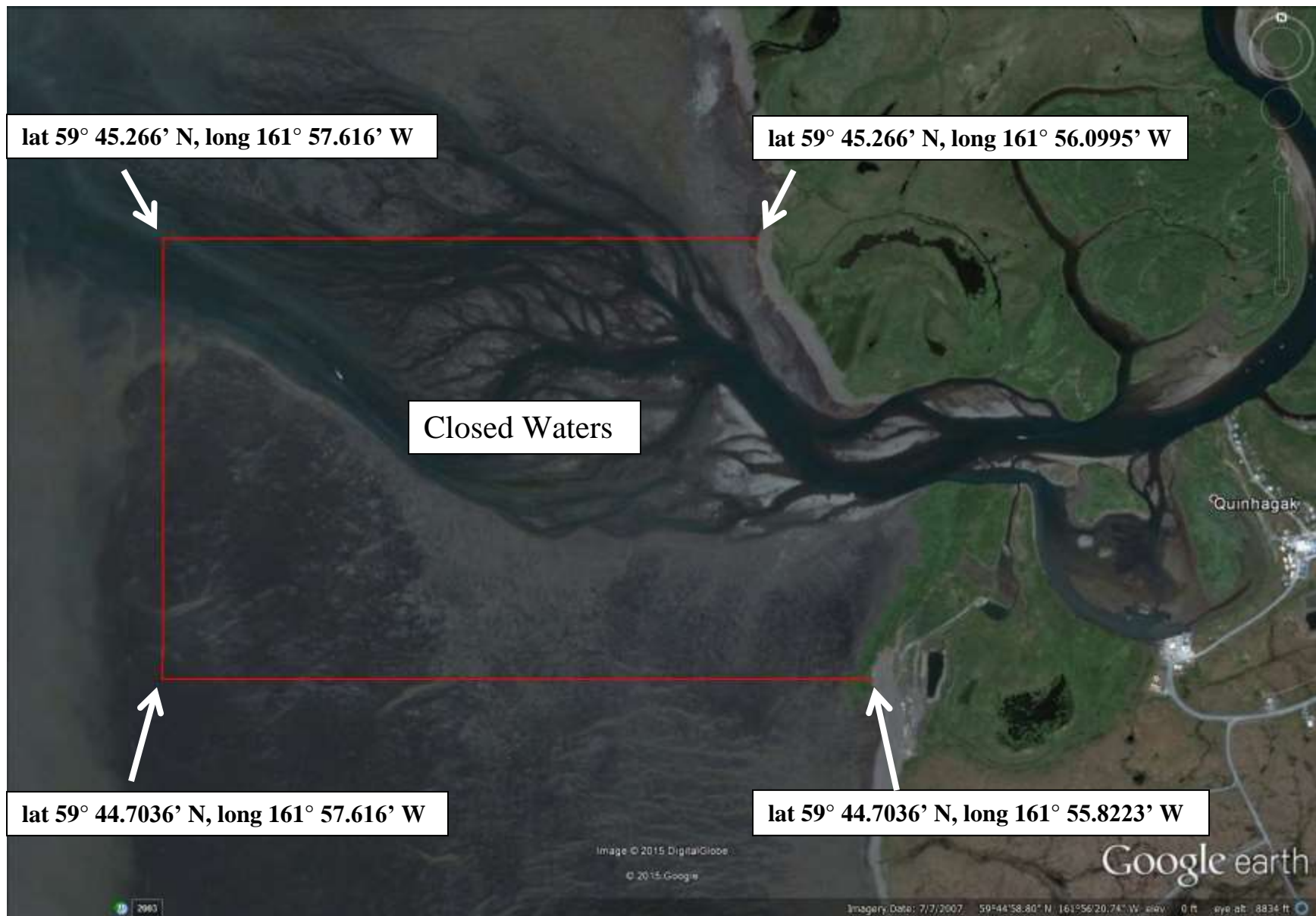


Figure 1— Closed Waters for District 4, Quinhagak.

Kuskokwim Management Area District W-5

Goodnews Bay

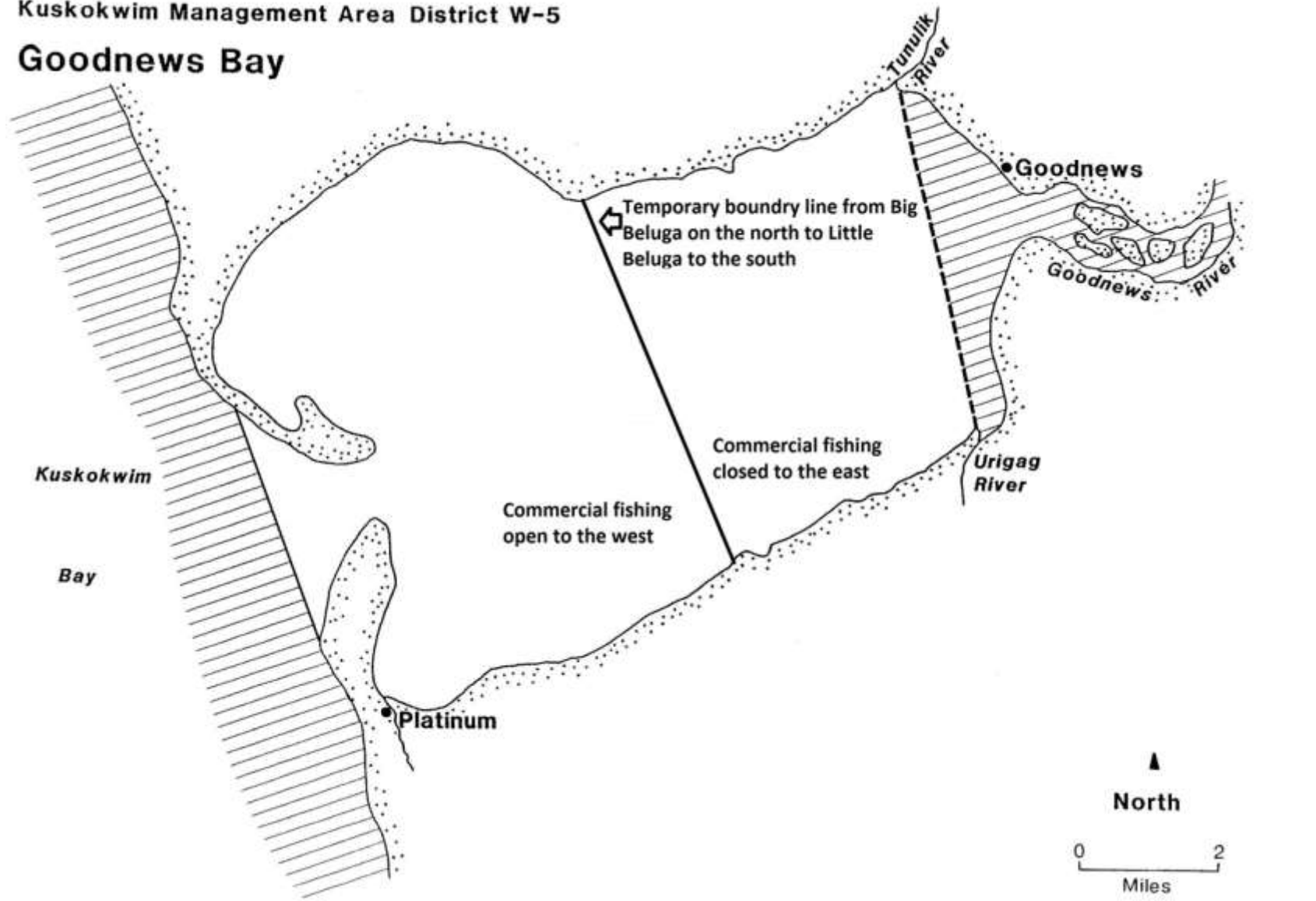


Figure 2.— Half district line, District 5, Goodnews Bay