

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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



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Contact:  
Aaron Poetter, Area Management Biologist  
Aaron Tiernan, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 543-2433  
Toll Free: 855-933-2433  
Fax: (907) 543-2021

Kuskokwim Area Office  
P.O. Box 1467  
Bethel, AK 99559  
Date Issued: July 13, 2015  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

#### **2015 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery Update #2**

##### 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 10, with a closed waters box around the mouth of the Kanektok River for the conservation of Chinook salmon. Preliminary harvest from that period was 1,618 Chinook, 6,195 sockeye, and 1,344 chum salmon from 137 permits. Chinook harvest was above average, while sockeye and chum harvests were below average.

The department appreciates the cooperation from fishermen while the closed waters box was in place. This was implemented to see if Chinook salmon harvest would decrease, while still allowing opportunity to harvest sockeye and chum salmon.

##### District 5 (Goodnews Bay)

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, with half district for Chinook salmon conservation. Preliminary harvest from that period was 164 Chinook, 4,021 sockeye, and 728 chum salmon from 47 permits. Chinook and chum harvests were below average, while sockeye salmon harvest was above average.

The department really appreciates the effort fishermen are making to help with the conservation of Chinook salmon.

#### **Inseason Assessment**

The Kanektok River Weir has been in operation since June 22. As of July 12, total passage through the weir is 1,620 Chinook, 30,212 sockeye, and 1,841 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 12, total passage through the weir is 416 Chinook, 27,018 sockeye, and 1,504 chum salmon. Sockeye salmon escapement has exceeded the lower bound of the biological escapement goal (18,000–40,000 fish). 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.

For more information contact:

#### **ADF&G, Commercial Fisheries:**

Aaron Poetter (907) 543-2709

Aaron Tiernan (907) 543-2331

#### **ADF&G, Sport Fish Division:**

John Chythlook (907) 543-1677 (Bethel), or (907) 459-7361 (Fairbanks)

