

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



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**2015 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 6
Emergency Order #3-S-WB-08-15**

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 17, 2015.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, Preliminary harvest from that period was 1,015 Chinook, 6,113 sockeye, and 3,219 chum salmon from 111 permits. Chinook harvest was above average, while sockeye and chum harvests were below average.

The Kanektok River Weir has been in operation since June 22. As of July 15, total passage through the weir is 2,755 Chinook, 45,086 sockeye, and 3,046 chum salmon. Chinook salmon escapements are above average for this date, while the escapement of sockeye and chum salmon are below average.

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 17 and Saturday, July 18, 2015. Closed waters will include those east of a line, from approximately Big Beluga on the north side of the bay to Little Beluga on the south side of the bay. The remainder of District 5 will be open to commercial salmon fishing (Figure 1).

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, with half district for Chinook salmon conservation. Preliminary harvest from that period was 63 Chinook, 3,395 sockeye, and 790 chum salmon from 29 permits. Chinook salmon harvest

were average, while sockeye salmon harvest was above average. Chum salmon harvest was below average.

The Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 15, total passage through the weir is 704 Chinook, 37,083 sockeye, and 2,603 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. The department really appreciates the effort fishermen are making to help with the conservation of Chinook salmon. Current escapement projections suggest that we may meet the lower end of the biological escapement goal and continued conservation measures are necessary. Again, the department would like to thank area fisherman for their continued effort.

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.

Kuskokwim Management Area District W-5

Goodnews Bay

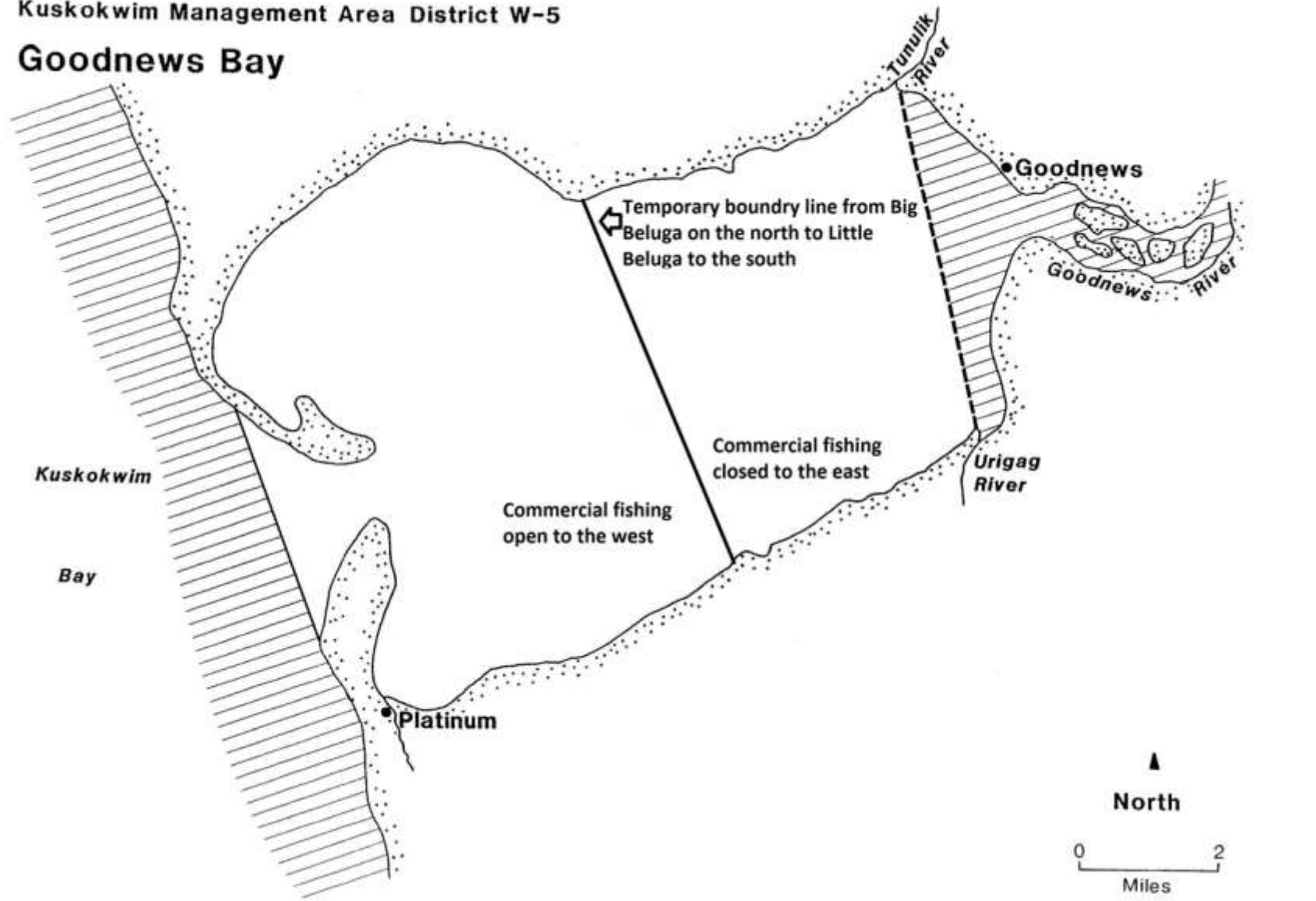


Figure 1.— Half district line, District 5, Goodnews Bay.