

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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 21, 2015
Time: 11:00 a.m.

**2015 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 8
Emergency Order #3-S-WB-09-15**

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 Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2015. Preliminary harvest from that period was 369 Chinook, 3,104 sockeye, and 1,569 chum salmon from 66 permits. Chinook salmon harvest was above average. Sockeye salmon harvest was below average, but the catch rate was above average. Chum salmon harvest was below average.

The Kanektok River Weir has been in operation since June 22. As of July 20, total passage through the weir is 4,320 Chinook, 64,084 sockeye, and 5,175 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 Wednesday, July 22, 2015. The entirety of District 5 will be open to commercial salmon fishing.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2015. Preliminary harvest from that period was 32 Chinook, 1,962 sockeye, and 433 chum

salmon from 29 permits. Chinook salmon harvest was average. Sockeye salmon harvest was above average, while chum salmon harvest was below average.

The Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 20, total passage through the weir is 908 Chinook, 45,787 sockeye, and 4,422 chum salmon. Sockeye salmon escapement has exceeded the upper bound of the biological escapement goal (18,000–40,000 fish). Chinook, sockeye and chum salmon passage is below average.

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.

