

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 11

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

Commercial salmon fishing in District 4 and District 5 will be suspended until further notice.

The escapements of chum salmon in the Kanektok (8,851 fish) and Goodnews river (7,017 fish) systems are well below the historical averages of 36,413 and 20,337, respectively. This brief suspension will allow the remainder of the chum salmon runs to enter the rivers for escapement.

District 4, Quinhagak

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2015. Preliminary harvest from that period was 120 Chinook, 1,253 sockeye, 1,121 chum, and 364 coho salmon from 44 permits. Chinook and sockeye salmon harvests and catch rates were above average. Chum salmon harvest and catch rate was average, while the coho salmon harvest and catch rate was below average.

The Kanektok River Weir has been in operation since June 22. As of July 27, total passage through the weir is 7,389 Chinook, 85,213 sockeye, 8,868 chum, and 82 coho salmon. Chinook salmon escapements are above average for this date, while the escapement of sockeye, chum, and coho salmon are 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 24, 2015. Preliminary harvest from that period was 39 Chinook, 1,712 sockeye, 294 chum, and 40 coho salmon from 21 permits. Chinook and sockeye salmon harvests and catch rates were above average. Chum salmon harvest was below average, while the catch rate was average. Coho salmon harvest and catch rate was average.

The Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 27, total passage through the weir is 1,168 Chinook, 50,961 sockeye, 7,017 chum, and 0 coho salmon. Sockeye salmon escapement has exceeded the upper bound of the biological escapement goal (18,000–40,000 fish). Chinook and chum salmon passage is below average, while the escapement for sockeye salmon is above 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.

