

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



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**2015 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 15
Emergency Order #3-S-WB-16-15**

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, August 12, 2015.

Commercial salmon fishing opened Monday, August 10, 2015, with preliminary harvest from that period being 36 Chinook, 510 sockeye, 290 chum, and 8,380 coho salmon from 65 permits.

As of August 10, total passage through the Kanektok River Weir is 10,048 Chinook, 105,119 sockeye, 14,480 chum, and 1,052 coho salmon. Chinook salmon escapement (third highest on record) is above average for this date, while the escapements of sockeye and chum salmon are below average. The coho salmon escapement is below average for this time of year.

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, commercial salmon fishing will be suspended until further notice. This is due to the weak escapement of coho salmon at the Middle Fork Goodnews River weir.

Commercial salmon fishing opened Monday, August 10, 2015, with preliminary harvest from that period being 15 Chinook, 789 sockeye, 63 chum, and 1,840 coho salmon from 27 permits.

As of August 10, total passage through the Middle Fork Goodnews Weir is 1,375 Chinook, 53,792 sockeye, 10,299 chum, and 72 coho salmon. Sockeye salmon escapement is above average and has exceeded the upper bound of the biological escapement goal (18,000–40,000 fish). Chinook, chum, and coho salmon escapements are below average for this time of year.

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>), local radio stations, and 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.