

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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P.O. Box 1467  
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#### **2016 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 1**

#### **Alaska Board of Fisheries Actions: Kuskokwim Area**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met in Fairbanks from January 12–16, 2016 to consider proposals concerning the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim areas. Proposals submitted to the board related to the Kuskokwim Area were heard and deliberated on. The following are important changes that will be in effect beginning in 2016.

#### **Early Season Chinook Salmon Subsistence Fishery Closure**

There were a number of proposals before the board that sought mechanism for moving Chinook salmon to the middle and upper Kuskokwim River for escapement and subsistence uses. An early season king salmon subsistence fishing closure, similar to the approach taken in 2014 and 2015, was suggested and agreed to by a group of Kuskokwim River residents that were in attendance. The board passed language that would annually suspend directed subsistence fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River until after June 11.

#### **Beach Seines**

The board passed a proposal that established specifications for beach seine gear used for subsistence fishing. A beach seine may not exceed 50 fathoms in length or 100 meshes in depth with the maximum mesh size being three and one half inches.

#### **Subsistence Permits**

Subsistence salmon fishing permits were discussed at the board meeting and two proposals related to permits were tabled until a later date. This was done to allow more time for the public to discuss subsistence salmon fishing permits in the Kuskokwim River.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska 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.

For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.