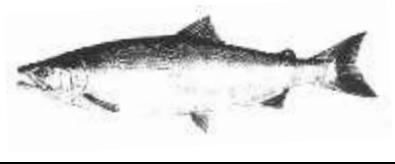


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact: Pat Shields, Area Mgmt. Biologist; Alyssa Frothingham, Asst. Area Mgmt. Biologist
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Date Issued: July 30, 2017 Time: 12:30 p.m.

UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 22
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-22-17

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 22 opens drift gillnetting in all waters of the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet normally open to drift gillnetting on Monday, July 31, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

According to 5AAC 21.353 *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*, from July 16 through July 31, at run strengths of 2.3 to 4.6 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, one regular 12-hour fishing period per week will be restricted to one or more of the following sections: 1) Expanded Kenai Section of the Upper Subdistrict; 2) Expanded Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict; 3) Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict; or 4) Drift Gillnet Area 1; notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (d)(2)(A) of this section, one regular 12-hour fishing period from July 16 through July 31 may occur in the Central District instead of in Drift Gillnet Area 1. This fishing period is in compliance with the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*.

The total sockeye salmon passage estimate in the Kenai River through Saturday, July 29, 2017 is approximately 692,000 fish. On average, sockeye salmon passage into the Kenai River is 69% complete through July 29. Inseason information indicates sockeye salmon run timing is two or more days late. Based on this, final passage projections of sockeye salmon in the Kenai River are expected to exceed 1.0 million fish.

The total sockeye salmon passage estimate in the Kasilof River through Saturday, July 29, 2017 is approximately 262,000 fish. The biological escapement goal of 160,000–340,000 sockeye salmon has already been achieved for this system.

Therefore, given the current rate of sockeye salmon passage in both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, and that inseason information indicates this year's sockeye salmon run to be late in run timing, opening all waters of the Central District to drift gillnet fishing on Monday, July 31, 2017 is warranted.