

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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 30
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-30-17

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 30 opens set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict within one-half mile of the mean high tide mark from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Monday, August 14, 2017 and from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2017.

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Kasilof River sockeye salmon is 160,000–340,000 fish. The cumulative sockeye salmon passage estimate in the Kasilof River through Sunday, August 13, 2017, was 336,298 fish. Run timing of Kasilof River sockeye salmon is projected to be three or more days late. The BEG is projected to be exceeded based on this level of passage and late run timing.

5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(i) states in part that the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery is open from June 25 through August 15, but that from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only.

5 AAC 21.363(e) states that notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it is the intent of the board that, while in most circumstances the department will adhere to the management plans in this chapter, no provision within a specific management plan is intended to limit the commissioner's use of emergency order authority under AS 16.05.060 to achieve established escapement goals for the management plans as the primary management objective. For the purpose of this subsection, "escapement goals" includes inriver goal, biological escapement goal, sustainable escapement goal, and optimal escapement goal as defined in 5 AAC 39.222.

Therefore, the fishing time provided to the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery in this announcement is intended to harvest Kasilof River sockeye salmon and keep sockeye salmon escapement within the BEG range.