

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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 1
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-01-18

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 1 closes commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in all waters of the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet for the 2018 directed king salmon fishery. The fishing dates affected by this closure are May 28, and June 4, 11, and 18.

The 2018 pre-season run forecast for Deshka River king salmon is approximately 12,800 fish. The forecast has an 80% prediction range of approximately 6,400–19,200. The Deshka River sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 13,000–28,000. Based on the forecast, the actual run to the Deshka River is not large enough to achieve the SEG, even with no harvest. The outlook for all Northern Cook Inlet king salmon in 2018 is poor based on continued poor production experienced drainage wide in 2017, when 12 of 14 stocks monitored, including the Deshka River, did not achieve their goals, and 0 of the 7 Stocks of Concern were documented to have achieved their goal.

On Tuesday, March 13, 2018, the Division of Sport Fish released emergency order (EO) 2-KS-2-10-18 closing the entire Susitna River drainage to the harvest of king salmon. Sport fishing for king salmon will only be allowed in the Deshka River and Yentna River system. These drainages will be restricted to catch-and-release only for king salmon; no harvest will be allowed.

The objective of these restrictions and closures is to achieve all Susitna River escapement goals by eliminating sport and commercial harvest of these stocks. Based on inseason information, fishing opportunity may be restored where and when possible while ensuring escapement goals are achieved.

The Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery will remain open to king salmon fishing, with no projected restrictions at this time.

The Northern District set gillnet fishery will be open for the regular fishing season from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, beginning on Monday, June 25, 2018, unless closed or modified by subsequent EO.