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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner Scott Kelley, Director



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2018 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #7 Emergency Orders; #3-S-WR-06-18

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

From the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak upstream to the Holitna River mouth: Section 4

Subsistence fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth, will open for 24 hours from 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 19 until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 20, 2018. Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, beach seines, and hook and line, and gillnets during this gillnet opener.

The waters of the Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak upstream to a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.308' N, long 159° 29.167' W and lat 61° 34.731' N, long 159° 28.939'W (Figure 1) will remained closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets until further notice. These closed waters are in place to help provide protection for Chinook salmon bound for the Aniak River.

Beginning 10:01a.m., Wednesday, June 20, 2018, subsistence fishing with the King Salmon permit will be allowed until further notice. The same regulations for fishing with the King Salmon permit apply as announced in Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #6.

As previously announced, subsistence fishing with gillnets remains closed in the Aniak River.

Additional subsistence fishing openings will be announced based on inseason Chinook salmon run strength indicators with support from the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska web site (<u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main</u>), 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.

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Figure 1.– Map of Aniak area closed waters.