

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



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**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #10
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-8-18**

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

These subsistence fishery management actions were supported by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Group at the recent meeting open to all stakeholders on July 6, 2018 held in Bethel. Subsequent management actions will be announced based on inseason assessment with support from the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

State Management

Effective 3:00 p.m. July 6, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be managing the Kuskokwim River drainage. Subsistence fishing announcements by the State of Alaska will be available to Alaska residents.

Yukon Delta NWR boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak (Sections 1–3):

Subsistence fishing will be allowed **beginning 3:00 p.m. Friday, July 6 until further notice.** Below the Johnson River, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 50 fathoms in length. **Above the Johnson River**, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 25 fathoms in length.

In addition, the waters of the Kuskokwim River near Aniak, from a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.264' N, long 159° 33.459' W and lat 61° 35.611' N, long 159° 33.260' W 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 be closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets beginning 3:00 p.m. Friday, July 6, 2018 until further notice. Subsistence fishing with hook and line, fish wheels equipped with a live box or chute, beech seines and dip nets is allowed, **but all Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive.** These closed waters are in place to help provide protection for Chinook salmon bound for the Aniak River.

At the Bethel Test Fishery, the ratio of chum and sockeye salmon to Chinook salmon has averaged roughly 17:1 over the last six days. Subsistence harvest reports from Friday's Working Group meeting and harvest estimates provided by USFWS from the last two fishing periods in federal waters indicate that the vast majority of harvest is comprised of chum and sockeye salmon. Restrictions to gillnets and other gear types will mitigate the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon and allow subsistence fishers the ability to harvest the more abundant chum and sockeye salmon.

As Previously Announced:

Subsistence fishing in Sections 4 & 5 (Yukon Delta NWR boundary to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River) remains open to the use of 6-inch or less mesh and 45 meshes in depth gillnets not to exceed 25 fathoms in length until further notice.

Subsistence fishing with gillnets will continue to be closed on these portions of the Kuskokwim River and the following tributaries:

- The Kwethluk River drainage including its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough and downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream mouth of the slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G regulatory markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

Subsistence fishing with the use of live release gear types such as hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels equipped with live boxes or chutes, and beach seines remains open until further notice. In Sections 1–3, any Chinook salmon caught with these gear types must be returned immediately to the water alive.

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.

For additional information concerning this news release:

ADF&G: Aaron Tiernan in Bethel 907-543-2709

USFWS: Ken Stahlnecker in Bethel 907-543-3151

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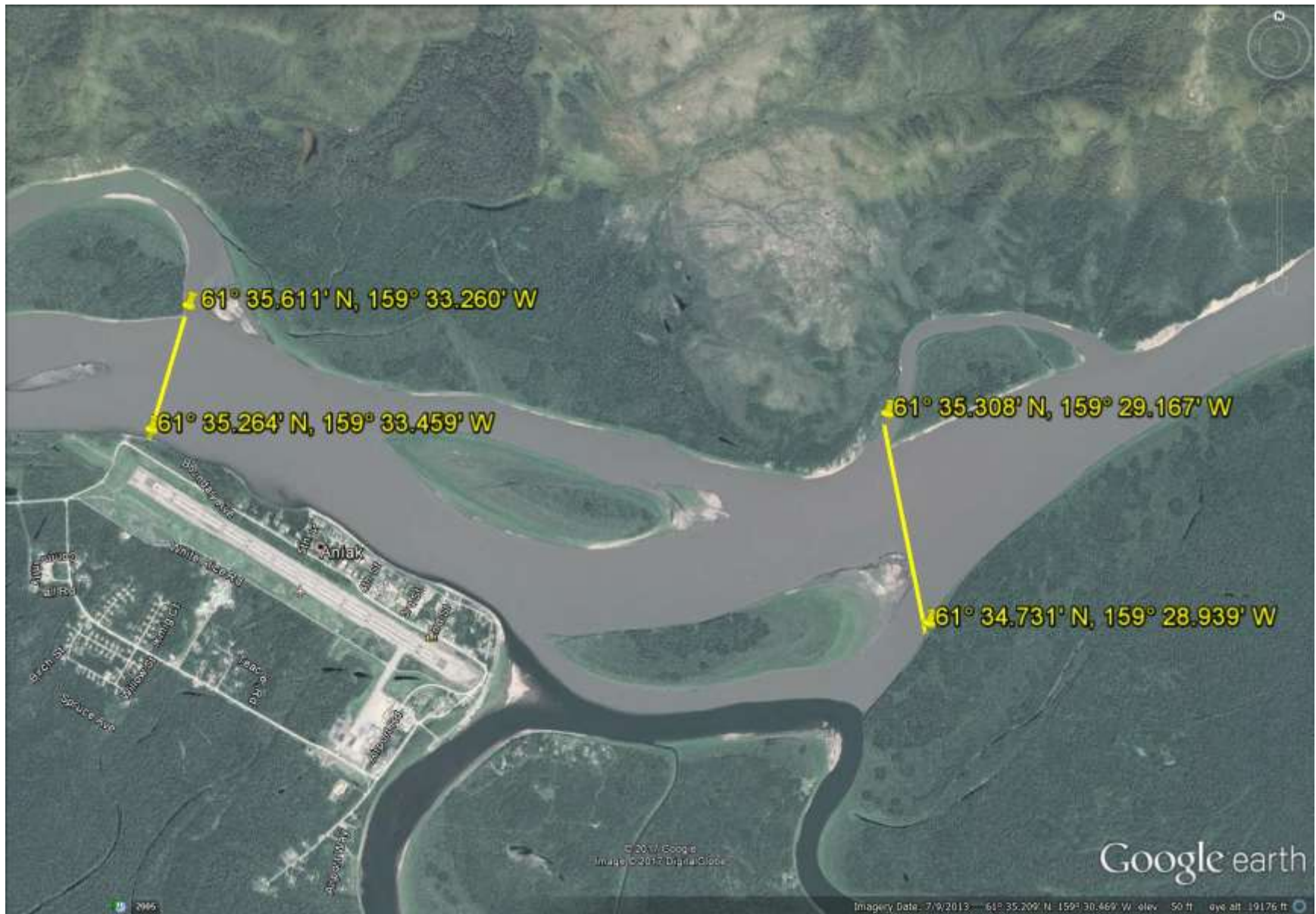


Figure 1.— Aniak area closed waters.