

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Contact: Brian Marston, Area Mgmt. Biologist or Alyssa Frothingham, Asst. Area Mgmt. Biologist	
43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Suite B	Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone: (907) 262-9368	Fax: (907) 262-4709
Date Issued: July 20, 2018	Time: 4:30 p.m.

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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 15**  
**EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-15-18**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 15 opens set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict within one-half mile of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, 2018. This announcement also opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in that portion of the Kenai Section of the Upper Subdistrict south of the southern ADF&G regulatory marker (N. K-Beach statistical area, see UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4) at the mouth of the Kenai River at 60° 30.49' N. lat., 151° 16.80' W. long. from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, 2018.

The estimated cumulative sockeye salmon passage in the Kasilof River through July 19 is 188,345 fish. Based on average run-timing, passage in the Kasilof River is 64% complete and projects a final passage estimate of 296,400 fish, which is within the biological escapement goal (BEG) for this river of 160,000–340,000 fish. Through 2:00 p.m. today, the estimated daily passage in the Kasilof River was approximately 12,500 fish. Therefore, in order to harvest Kasilof River sockeye salmon, fishing in the above described areas is warranted.

Fish harvested in the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery during this fishing period should be reported in statistical areas 244-21, 244-22, or 244-31. Fish harvested in the N. K-Beach 600 foot fishery should be reported in statistical area 244-32.

On July 1, 2018, the Kenai River late-run king salmon sport fishery was restricted to no bait and on July 18, 2018 the sport fishery was further restricted to no retention in order to achieve the king salmon SEG. According to 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(B) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, if the use of bait and the retention of king salmon is prohibited in the sport fishery, commercial fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, excluding the East Foreland Section, are open for no more than 24 hours per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. With this announcement, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will have fished 24 hours for the management week of July 15 through July 21.

The current total Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial harvest of king salmon is estimated to be 1,645 fish through July 19. Based on length measurements from catch sampling, approximately 20% or 324 fish were estimated to be large king salmon (>75 cm). Of this number, it is estimated that the total Kenai River large king salmon harvest is approximately 225 fish. These estimates are based on harvest reporting, catch length sampling, and historic genetic stock identification proportions.