

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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



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 21, 2018 Time: 2:00 p.m.

UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 16
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-16-18

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 16 opens set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 22, 2018.

More than 21,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to have passed the Kasilof River sonar counter on July 20, bringing the season total passage estimate to nearly 210,000 fish, which projects a final passage estimate of 318,000 to 366,000 fish for runs that are on-time to runs that are 3-days late in run-timing. The sockeye salmon passage estimate in the Kasilof River through 12:00 noon today was approximately 7,500 fish. Therefore, fishing in the above described waters is warranted in order to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kasilof River.

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 sustainable escapement goal. 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. However, hours fished with set gillnets in the Kasilof Section within 600 feet of shore do not apply to the weekly hourly provisions in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(B) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*.

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.