

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

**Only Alaska residents, as defined on page 5, are eligible to participate in personal use fisheries.**

Nonresidents may not participate in personal use fisheries. For example, nonresidents may not handle any of the gear or operate a boat that is being used for personal use fishing, or have in their possession fish harvested in a personal use fishery.

- “Personal use” is taking, fishing for, or possession of finfish, shellfish, or other fishery resources, by Alaska residents for personal use and not for sale or barter, with gill or dip net, seine, fish wheel, long line, or other means defined by the Board of Fisheries.
- **In all personal use fisheries, a sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is under 16):**
  - For anglers aged 16 to 59, a resident Alaska sport fishing license must be in possession of the person who is personal use fishing.
  - For Alaska resident anglers 60 or older and for Alaska resident disabled veterans, the ADF&G PID card or DAV card must be in possession of the person who is personal use fishing.
- In some personal use fisheries, a permit is required in addition to the sport fishing license. Personal use permits are available online at:

[www.adfg.alaska.gov/store](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store)

- Salmon sport fishing bag and possession limits are in addition to those allowed under personal use fishing regulations.

## COOK INLET - NORTH GULF COAST PERSONAL USE FISHERIES

### SMELT (HOOLIGAN) - PERSONAL USE

- No permit is required, **but a sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is under 16).**
- Open season for smelt in salt waters is April 1–May 31; in fresh waters, it is April 1–June 15.
- Smelt may be taken by dip net in any fresh or salt water.
- Dip nets may be used to harvest smelt throughout the Kenai River April 1–June 15.
- Small, handheld gillnets may be used to take smelt in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located at Cunningham Park. No gillnet may exceed 20 ft in length, 4 ft in depth, and 1½ inches mesh size. The net must be attended while it is in the water. The open season for this gillnet fishery is April 1–June 15.
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use smelt.
- Call (907) 267-2515 for recorded inseason information.
- See also “Sport fishing gear for herring and smelt,” page 7.

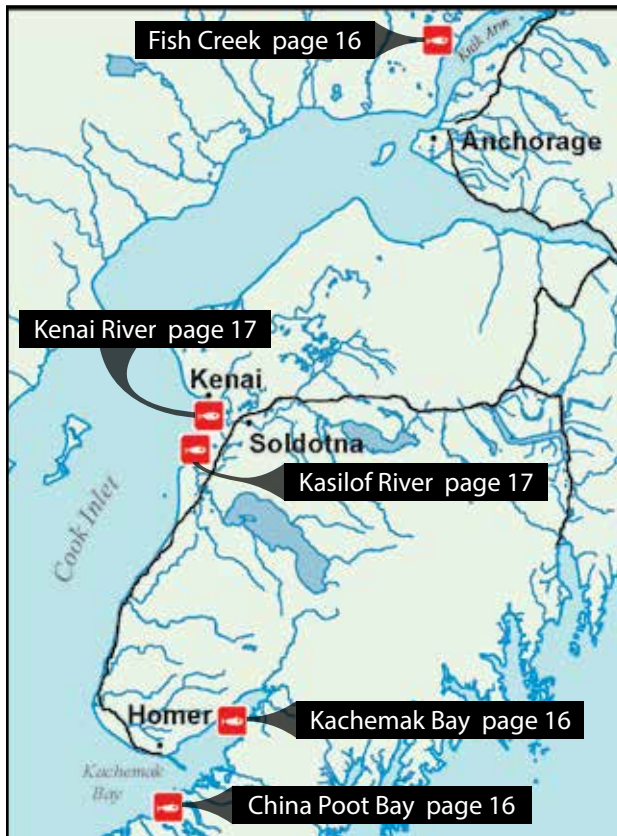


### HERRING - PERSONAL USE

- No permit is required, **but a sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is under 16).**
- Open season in salt waters north of Anchor Point is April 1–May 31; in Cook Inlet south of Anchor Point, including Resurrection Bay, open season is January 1–December 31.
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use herring.
- Herring may be taken for personal use with gillnets, dip nets, or cast nets. Gillnets may not be used to harvest herring in Turnagain Arm (salt waters east of a line from Point Possession to Point Campbell—see map on page 18). Cast nets may be used only in Kachemak Bay east of a line from Anchor Point to Point Pogibshi (see map on page 18).
- A cast net is a circular net with a mesh size of no more than one and one-half inches and weights attached to the perimeter which, when thrown surrounds the fish and closes at the bottom when returned.
- In Cook Inlet north of Anchor Point and in the North Gulf Coast, herring gillnets may not exceed 20 ft in length, 2-inch stretch mesh. South of Anchor Point, gillnets may not exceed 50 ft in length, 2-inch stretch mesh.
- A gillnet must be attended at all times when it is being used to take fish.
- See also “Sport fishing gear for herring and smelt,” page 7.

### More Personal Use Fisheries Information

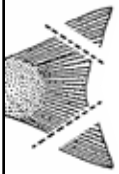
- **Kenai/Kasilof dipnetting hotline, including commercial openings:**
  - Anchorage (907) 267-2512
- **Selected Cook Inlet sonar estimates and weir counts:**
  - Soldotna (907) 262-9097
- **Smelt (hooligan) dipnetting hotline:**
  - Anchorage (907) 267-2515
- **Chitina dipnetting hotline:**
  - Anchorage (907) 267-2511
  - Glennallen (907) 822-5224
  - Personal use regulations for dipnetting at Chitina can be found in the Northern sport fishing regulation summary or on the Region 3 website.



### COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERIES

- Permits are required for personal use fisheries at Kenai, Kasilof, Fish Creek, and for the Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet fishery.
- You must have a current year's Alaska sport fishing license (or the ADF&G Permanent ID or DAV card) to obtain a permit.
- Only one permit per household, not one permit per person.
- No permit is required for the China Poot Creek personal use fishery.

- Kenai, Kasilof and Fish Creek permits are available at most license vendors in the Mat-Su Valley, Eagle River, Anchorage, and Kenai Peninsula. All Cook Inlet personal use salmon permits are free of charge.
- Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet fishery permits are available only at the ADF&G Homer Office, and only after August 1. Call (907) 235-8191 for more information.
- Permits must be returned to ADF&G by the date indicated on the permit. Failure to return this permit may result in a \$200 fine and loss of your future personal use fishing privileges.
- A person may not possess salmon taken under a personal use salmon fishing permit unless both tips of the tail fin have been **immediately** removed from the salmon.
- **Immediately means:**
  - **when fishing from SHORE:** before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.
  - **when fishing from A BOAT:** before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.



- This definition of immediately applies only to the personal use fishery and **DOES NOT** apply to recording king salmon (or other fish) taken in the sport fishery on the sport fishing license or harvest record.
- All fish harvested (salmon and flounder) must be recorded on the permit, in ink, **immediately** upon harvesting the fish.
- **Immediately means:** before concealing the salmon from plain view or transporting the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water when fishing from shore or from the waters open to personal use fishing when fishing from a boat.

### ANNUAL PERMIT LIMIT

In Cook Inlet, only **one** personal use salmon permit may be issued to each household per year. A household may have either **one** Kenai/Kasilof/Fish Creek permit or **one** Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet permit, but not both in the same year.

### DIP NETTING TIPS

- **Stay off the dunes!:** Do not camp, walk, drive cars or 4-wheelers, or otherwise disturb the fragile dunes. Foot access is only through established footpaths, and walkways. The vegetation anchors the dunes, which in turn anchor the river beds. The dunes help prevent flooding and erosion and provide habitat for birds and animals. Please respect private property as if it were your own, and do not trespass, including "cutting through" with your vehicle or 4-wheeler.
- **Don't drive on the beach:** To protect the dunes, do not drive your car or ATV above the high tide mark. Local land managers may have vehicle access restrictions.
- **Fires:** Land managers have fire restrictions.
- **Pack out trash:** Refuse service may not be available. Please pack out your own trash.
- **Tidal currents can be fast:** If you are shore fishing, we suggest you wear a life jacket or have flotation readily available. The tides are very strong and can create unexpected hazards. If you are fishing from a boat, life jackets for adults are required by law to be available, and it is law that children under 13 wear their life jacket in an open boat.
- **Fish processing:** Use facilities if provided, do not process fish on stairs, on boardwalks, on boat ramps or on parking lots. Dispose of fish waste responsibly by using facilities provided or return waste to the river in small pieces if allowed. If you process fish at home dispose of waste properly by taking the waste to a landfill where allowed. Never discard fish waste onto the open countryside.



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## COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERIES (continued)

### CHINA POOT CREEK DIP NET FISHERY

- No permit is required, **but a sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is under 16).**
- Sockeye salmon may be taken July 1–August 7 in China Poot Creek (on the south shore of Kachemak Bay) upstream of ADF&G markers.
- The bag and possession limits are 6 sockeye salmon per person per day. Only sockeye salmon may be retained.
- Both tips of the tail fin must be removed.
- When fishing from shore, this must be done before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.
- When fishing from a boat, this must be done before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.

### KACHEMAK BAY COHO SALMON GILLNET FISHERY

- **A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.** Permits are available from the Homer ADF&G office from August 1 until the fishery closes.
- The fishery takes place from August 16 through September 15. However fishing can only occur during open periods from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 a.m. Wednesday and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 a.m. Saturday. The fishery closes when 1,000–2,000 coho salmon are harvested. Permit holders are encouraged to report their catches on a daily basis by phone (907) 235-1738.
- Gear is a 35-fathom gillnet. Mesh size may not exceed 6 inches. Depth of the net may not exceed 45 meshes.
- The yearly harvest limit is 25 salmon for the permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member.
- No part of a set gillnet may be operated within 600 ft of another set gillnet. No person may operate more than one set gillnet. No part of a set gillnet may be set or operated more than 500 ft from the mean high water mark. No set gillnet may be set seaward of another set gillnet.

### DIP NET: STATEWIDE DEFINITION FOR ALL FISHERIES

By regulation, a dip net is defined as a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame. The maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed 5 ft. The depth of the bag must be at least one-half the greatest straight-line distance as measured through the net opening. No portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4½ inches. The frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand.



Dipnetting the Kenai River below the Warren Ames bridge

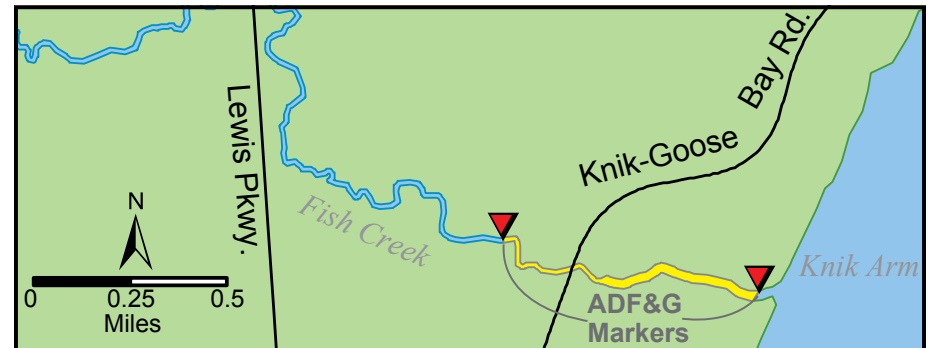
by Ken Marsh

## FISH CREEK, KASILOF RIVER AND KENAI RIVER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERIES

- **A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.** The permit covers four fisheries: gillnetting on the Kasilof River, dipnetting on the Kenai River, dipnetting on the Kasilof River, and dipnetting on Fish Creek. Alaska residents may participate in one or all of these fisheries.
- Permits are available online at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov) as well as at license vendors in Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Eagle River, JBER, Cooper Landing, Seward, Soldotna, Kenai, Ninilchik, Anchor Point, and Homer. ADF&G offices include: Anchorage, Palmer, Soldotna, Homer, and Fairbanks
- The total yearly harvest limit is 25 salmon and 10 flounder for the permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member. The limit is combined for all four fisheries, not for each fishery.

### FISH CREEK PERSONAL USE DIP NET FISHERY

- **Opened only by emergency order.**
- **A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.**
- NO RETENTION of king salmon is allowed.
- Open area: Upstream from ADF&G markers posted on both sides of the terminus of Fish Creek to markers posted about ¼ mile upstream from Knik-Goose Bay Road. Dipnetting may occur from boat or shore.



Fish Creek

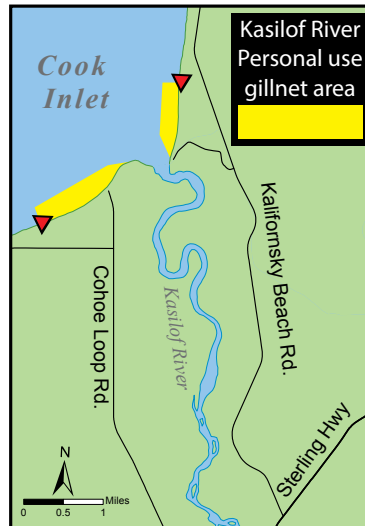
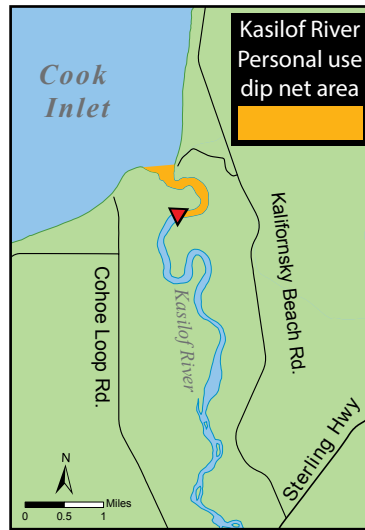


### KASILOF RIVER DIP NET FISHERY

- A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.
- Open June 25–August 7. Fishing is allowed 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.
- NO RETENTION of king salmon is allowed.
- Open area: from ADF&G markers posted on Cook Inlet outside of the mouth of the Kasilof River, to about 1 mile upstream to ADF&G markers.
- Fish may be taken from the bank or from a boat.

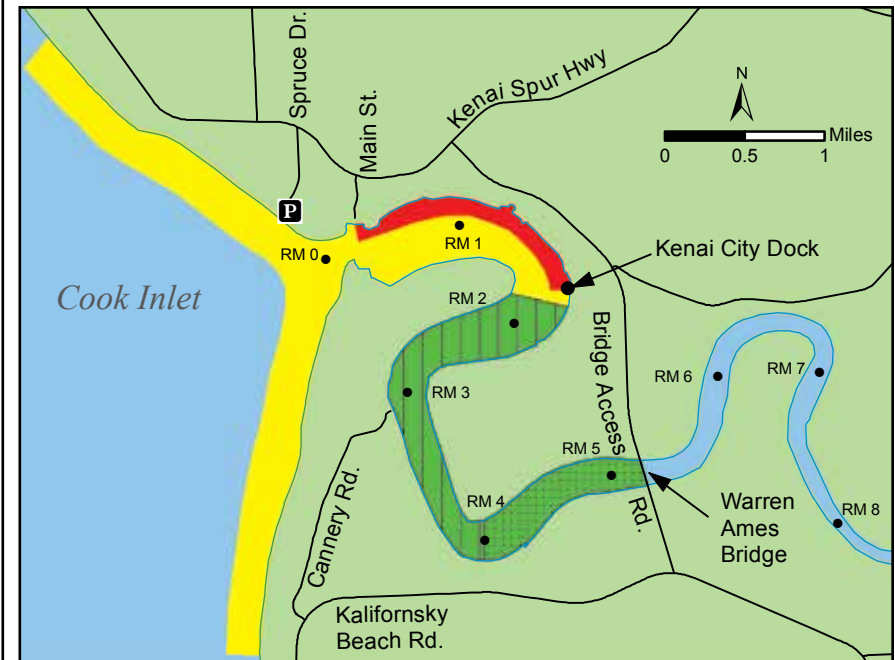
### KASILOF RIVER GILLNET FISHERY

- A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.
- Open June 15–June 24. Fishing allowed only between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Open area: salt waters about 1 mile north and south of the Kasilof River mouth, as defined by ADF&G markers. Fishing prohibited beyond 1 mile from the mean high water mark, and is also prohibited within the flowing waters or over the stream bed or channel of the Kasilof River at any stage of the tide.
- Any king salmon caught may be retained.
- Only one set gillnet per household may be fished. A set gillnet is a gillnet that has been intentionally set, staked, anchored, or otherwise fixed. Set gillnets may not exceed 10 fathoms (60 feet) in length, 6 inches in stretched mesh size, and 45 meshes in depth. A minimum distance of 100 feet must be maintained between nets. Each personal use fisherman must write his/her first initial, last name, and home address on any keg or buoy attached to a gillnet. A keg or buoy attached to a gillnet must also be inscribed with the name or the AK number of the vessel used to operate the gillnet.
- The permit holder (or a household member named on the permit) must be physically present at the fishing site at all times when the gear is being fished.
- Net sites are strictly on a “first come, first served” basis. The placement of signs, running lines, buoys, or dry nets on the beach in anticipation of incoming tides does not constitute any prior right to a net location. Sites are established only when the net actually enters the water.







### KENAI RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET FISHERY

- A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.
- Open July 10–July 31. Fishing is allowed only between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Only one (1) king salmon may be retained from the Kenai River dip net fishery.
- Open area from shore: from the commercial fishing markers located in Cook Inlet north and south of the river mouth, upstream to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge, except for a section of the north shore from an ADF&G marker below the terminus of Main St. to ADF&G markers near the Kenai City Dock.
- Open area for boats: from ADF&G markers near the Kenai City Dock upstream to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge. Fish MAY NOT be taken from a boat powered by a two-stroke motor, other than direct fuel injection (DFI).



#### **Kenai River boat and shore dipnet areas**

	Open to dipnetting from shore		Open to dipnetting from shore and boat – No HP Limitation
	Closed to dipnetting		Open to dipnetting from shore and boat – 50 HP Limitation