

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Date Issued: August 1, 2012 Time: 4:30 p.m.

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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 32**  
**EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-31-12**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 32 closes commercial fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict on Thursday, August 2, 2012, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

This commercial fishing announcement also restricts fishing with drift gillnets to Drift Gillnet Area 1 and the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict on Thursday, August 2, 2012, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

King salmon runs to Cook Inlet are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. The department's information, including data from inriver assessment programs, indicates that the Kenai River king salmon late-run is also experiencing low strength. Inseason projections show all indices of abundance remain well below their respective minimum inseason management objective. At this time, it does not appear that the late-run will attain adequate escapement without significant restrictions to all fisheries that harvest this stock. Based on these data, the Division of Sport Fish is also prohibiting the use of bait and limiting sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure while sport fishing in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 2, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, August 15, 2012.

According to 5AAC 21.353 *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*, at sockeye salmon run strengths to the Kenai River greater than 4.6 million fish, there are no mandatory restrictions to regularly scheduled drift gillnet fishing periods. However, the restriction to drift gillnetting in this announcement is intended to harvest Kenai and Kasilof river sockeye salmon stocks while minimizing the harvest of northern-bound coho salmon stocks.