

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



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**2013 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 5
Kuskokwim River Subsistence Salmon Fishing Update**

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

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) met on Wednesday, June 19, to hear subsistence salmon fishing reports and discuss salmon run assessment. Many subsistence fishermen from the lower Kuskokwim River reported that people are slowing down on targeting king salmon and shifting to targeting chum salmon as they are close to meeting their king salmon harvest goals. A few lower river subsistence fishermen reported that they are waiting to start fishing until the densities of salmon increase to achieve their harvest goals more efficiently. Reports from middle river subsistence fishermen indicate that the king salmon run is beginning to build in that section of river, however catch rates are still fairly low. Current data from the Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) project indicates that king salmon escapement goals will likely be met. ADF&G and USFWS recommended to maintain the existing subsistence salmon fishing restrictions on the tributaries and to keep subsistence salmon fishing open on the mainstem to all gear types and unrestricted gillnet mesh size. The Working Group voted unanimously to support the recommendation.

Below is a reminder of the subsistence salmon fishing regulations that have been in place since June 1.

Subsistence salmon fishing in the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River is open to all gear types and unrestricted gillnet mesh size.

There are subsistence salmon fishing restrictions in some Kuskokwim River tributaries. Subsistence king salmon fishing with hook and line gear is closed and gillnets are restricted to 4-inch or less mesh size not to exceed 60-feet in length and 45 meshes deep until 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 25, 2013, in the following waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage:

- The Kwethluk River drainage including where it meets 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 where the Old Kuskokuak Slough meets with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including where it meets with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers where it meets with the Kuskokwim River.

The next Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 26 at the Bethel Fish and Game office.

Working Group meetings are open to the public and may be attended in person or by teleconference. The teleconference number is 1-800-315-6338 and the conference code is 58756#.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office and through local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

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