

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
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Date Issued: August 7, 2011

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Time: 4:00 p.m.

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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 41  
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-39-11**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 41 modifies Emergency Order Number 2S-36-11 and closes commercial fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict for the remainder of the 2011 season, effective at 11:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

The Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan directs the department to achieve the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 17,800 to 35,700 king salmon. Through August 6th, all indices used to assess the abundance of late-run king salmon in the Kenai River indicate a run that is well below average for the third consecutive year. Based on the similarities of the indices in 2011 to these years, it is likely the escapement goal will not be achieved without passing the remaining Kenai River king salmon into the escapement.

5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii) Fishing Seasons. In the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections, the set gillnet season will close August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order after July 31, if the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only; for purposes of this sub-paragraph, "fishing period" means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.

The estimated sockeye salmon harvest in the set gillnet fishery in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections on Saturday, August 6, was less than 1% of the season total. It is likely that the harvest from today's commercial fishing period, August 7, will also be less than 1%. This would be two consecutive period of less than 1%. Therefore, the closure of set gillnetting in the Kenai, Kasilof and East Forelands Sections is required by regulation.