

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner*  
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#### **UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 7**

#### **EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-07-19**

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 7 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, 2019. This period will include set gillnet gear restrictions for the Kasilof section, as described below.

As of July 1, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement projection exceeds 203,000 for average run timing. Fishing in the above described waters is warranted in order to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kasilof River.

The Kenai River late-run king salmon sport fishery was restricted to fishing with no bait beginning on July 1, 2019. According to 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(A) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, if the use of bait 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 48 hours per week beginning July 1, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. With regularly scheduled fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays no longer in effect in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, except for the East Foreland Section, any and all fishing time provided to this set gillnet fishery may occur only via EO beginning July 1, 2019. With this announcement, the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery will have fished 26 hours for the management week of June 30 through July 6.

As a reminder, Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4 implemented gear restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, except for the East Foreland Section, from July 1–31, 2019, unless superseded by subsequent Emergency Order (EO). The specific gear restrictions are identified in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(A)(i), where it states that if bait is prohibited in the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery in order to achieve the SEG, then the number of set gillnets operated in the Kenai and Kasilof section set gillnet fishery may also be restricted to no more than four set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length, 105 fathoms in

aggregate length, and 29 meshes in depth, or no more than two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. Set gillnets that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at one end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter. Set gillnet mesh size regulations do not change under these restrictions. Unless rescinded by a subsequent EO these set gillnet gear restrictions affect the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict from July 1 to July 31, 2019.

By regulation, all other set gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet, except for the Kenai and East Foreland sections, will fish their regularly scheduled period from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, 2019. Also, by regulation, drift gillnetting will be open district-wide from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, 2019.