

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 11 **EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-11-19**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 11 opens set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict within one-half mile of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Set gillnetting will also be opened within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line (60° 27.10' N. lat.) and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker (60° 30.49' N. lat.) located south of the Kenai River mouth; i.e., the North Kalifornsky Beach statistical area (244-32) from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, 2019.

This announcement also opens commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnets in the regular (narrow) Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Fish harvested during this drift gillnet fishing period should be reported in statistical area 244-61.

As of July 11, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is 40% complete based on average run timing and projects a final escapement of more than 350,000 fish. The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Kasilof River sockeye salmon is 160,000–340,000 fish. Both Kenai River late-run large king and late-run sockeye salmon runs are too early in the season to project final escapement with a high degree of accuracy. Therefore, the additional fishing time provided in this announcement is intended to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kasilof River while minimizing harvest of Kenai River king and sockeye salmon until the abundance of these stocks can be projected with more certainty.

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 Kenai and Kasilof sections set gillnet fishery will have fished 43 of the available 48 hours for the management week of July 7 through July 13.

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 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. These set gillnet gear restrictions are in effect in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict beginning July 1, 2019.

All other set gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet remain closed on Saturday, July 13, 2019, with the exception of setnetting in that portion of the Western Subdistrict of the Central District south of the latitude of Redoubt Point, which is open from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, 2019.