

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



*Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Sam Rabung, Director*



Contact: Brian Marston, Area Mgmt. Biologist; Alyssa Frothingham, Asst. Area Mgmt. Biologist
43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Suite B Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone: (907) 262-9368 Fax: (907) 262-4709
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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 12
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-12-19**

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 12 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2019. This announcement also alters the fishing time for the East Foreland Section. This area will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2019 to coincide with the rest of the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery.

Also by regulation, drift gillnetting will be open in Drift Gillnet Area 1 and in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2019.

All other set gillnet fisheries in UCI will fish the regularly scheduled period from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2019, except for 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 Monday, July 15, 2019.

As of July 13, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is 43% complete based on average run timing and projects a final escapement of more than 370,000 fish. The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Kasilof River sockeye salmon is 160,000–340,000 fish. Fishing in the above described waters is warranted in order to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

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 With regularly scheduled fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays no longer in effect in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, except for the East Foreland Section, any and all fishing time provided to this set gillnet fishery may occur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 Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery south of the East Foreland Section will have fished 14 of the available 48 hours for the management week of July 14 through July 20.

As a reminder, UCI 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 will be in effect in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict beginning July 1, 2019.