

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
Date Issued: July 28, 2019 Time: 12:00 p.m.

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

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 19 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2019. This announcement also alters the fishing time for the East Foreland Section set gillnet fishery. This area will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2019 to coincide with the rest of the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery.

This announcement also opens commercial fishing with drift gillnets in the following areas from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2019: Drift Gillnet Area 1 and Area 2 (Figure 1) and the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict (Figure 2). This drift gillnet fishing period will be extended only in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and the Anchor Point Section (Figure 3) of the Lower Subdistrict from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 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 29, 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. Northern District setnetters are reminded of gear restrictions for fishing periods on July 22, 25, & 29 that were announced in UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 15, which reduced legal gear to no more than one net per permit, measuring no more than 35 fathoms in length in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District. In the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District, legal gear was reduced to no more than two set gillnets per permit, with each set gillnet measuring no more than 35 fathoms in length, with the aggregate net length not to exceed 70 fathoms per permit.

On July 26, 2019, Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fisheries staff estimated the total Kenai River sockeye salmon run through July 25 to be 1.6 million fish. The final run to the Kenai River is projected to exceed 2.3 million sockeye salmon. As of July 27, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is 81% complete based on average run timing and projects a final escapement of more than

360,000 fish. The biological escapement goal (BEG) for Kasilof River sockeye salmon is 160,000–340,000 fish. In the Kenai River, average sockeye salmon passage into the Kenai River is 60% complete through July 27 and projects a final passage of more than 1.4 million fish. The inriver goal for Kenai River sockeye salmon is 1.0–1.3 million fish. Fishing in the above described waters is warranted in order to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishermen are reminded that gear restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, as identified in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(A)(i), are no longer in effect. Legal set gillnet gear as outlined in 5 AAC 21.331 may now be used.

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 32 of the available 48 hours for the management week of July 28 through August 3.

5 AAC 21.353 (d)(2)(A)(iv) *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*. states that one regular 12-hour fishing period from July 16 through July 31 may occur in the Central District instead of in Drift Gillnet Area 1. The drift gillnet fishing period provided for in this announcement is in compliance with the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan*.

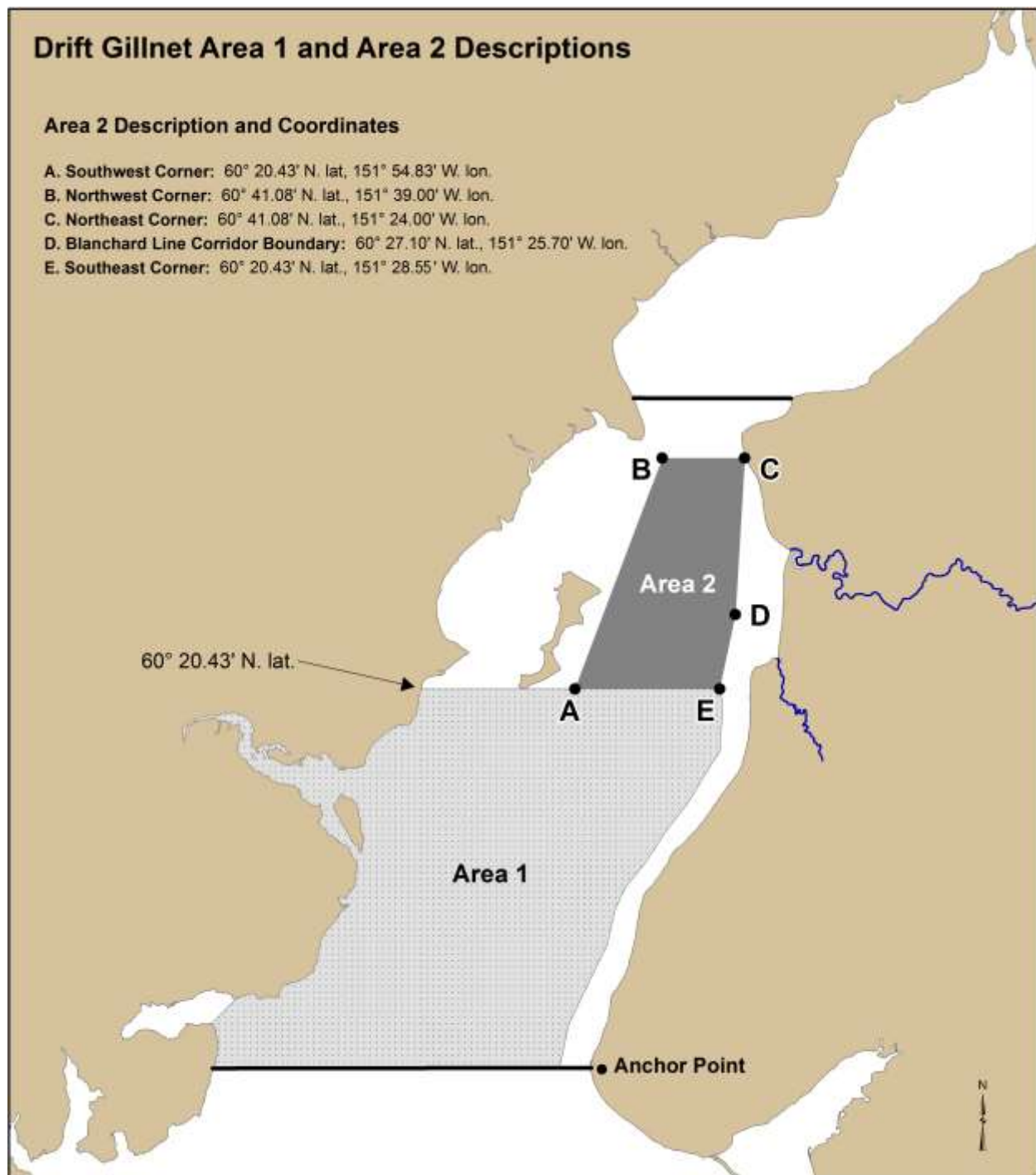


Figure 1. Drift gillnet boundaries for fishing Areas 1 and 2.

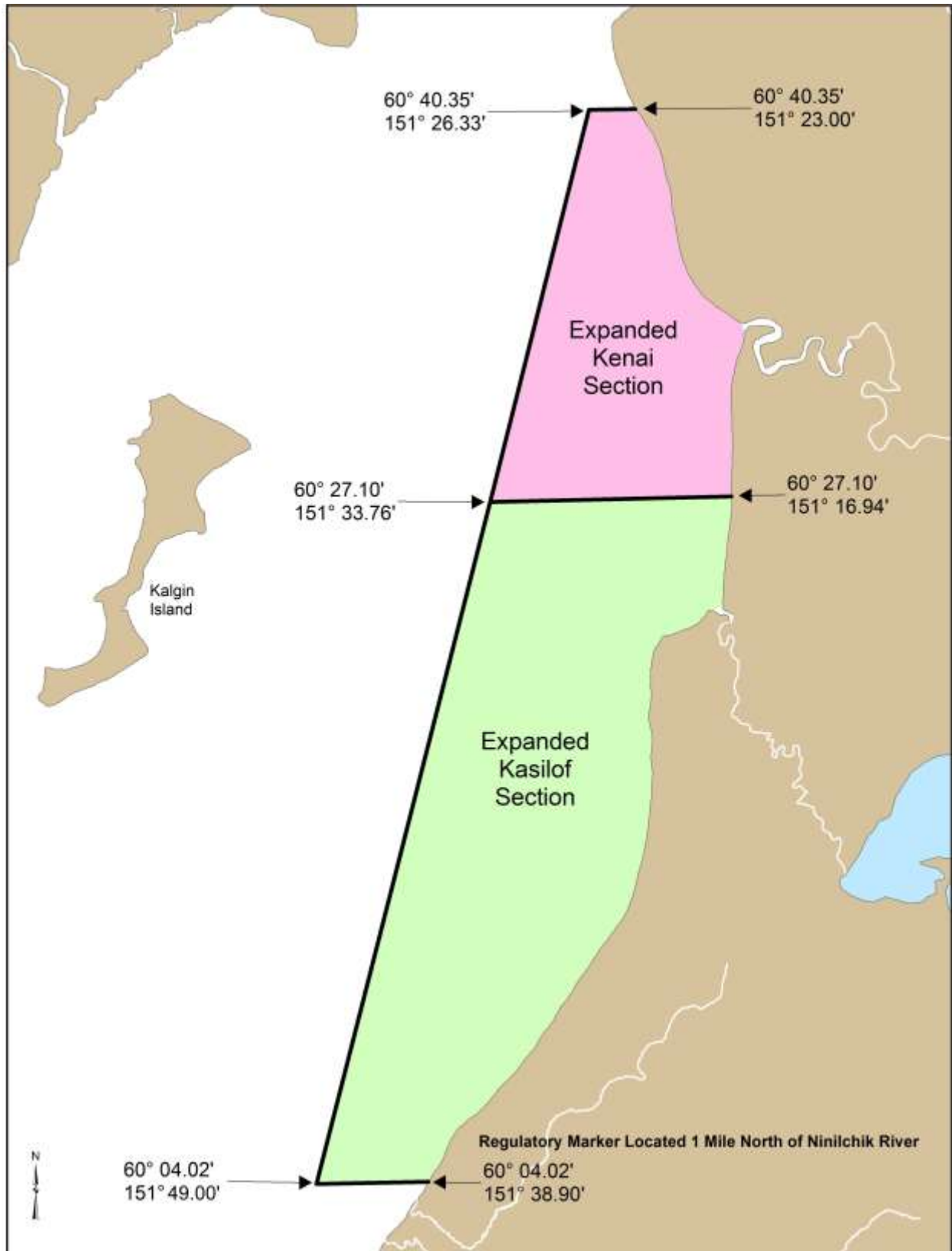


Figure 2. Drift gillnet boundaries for the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections.

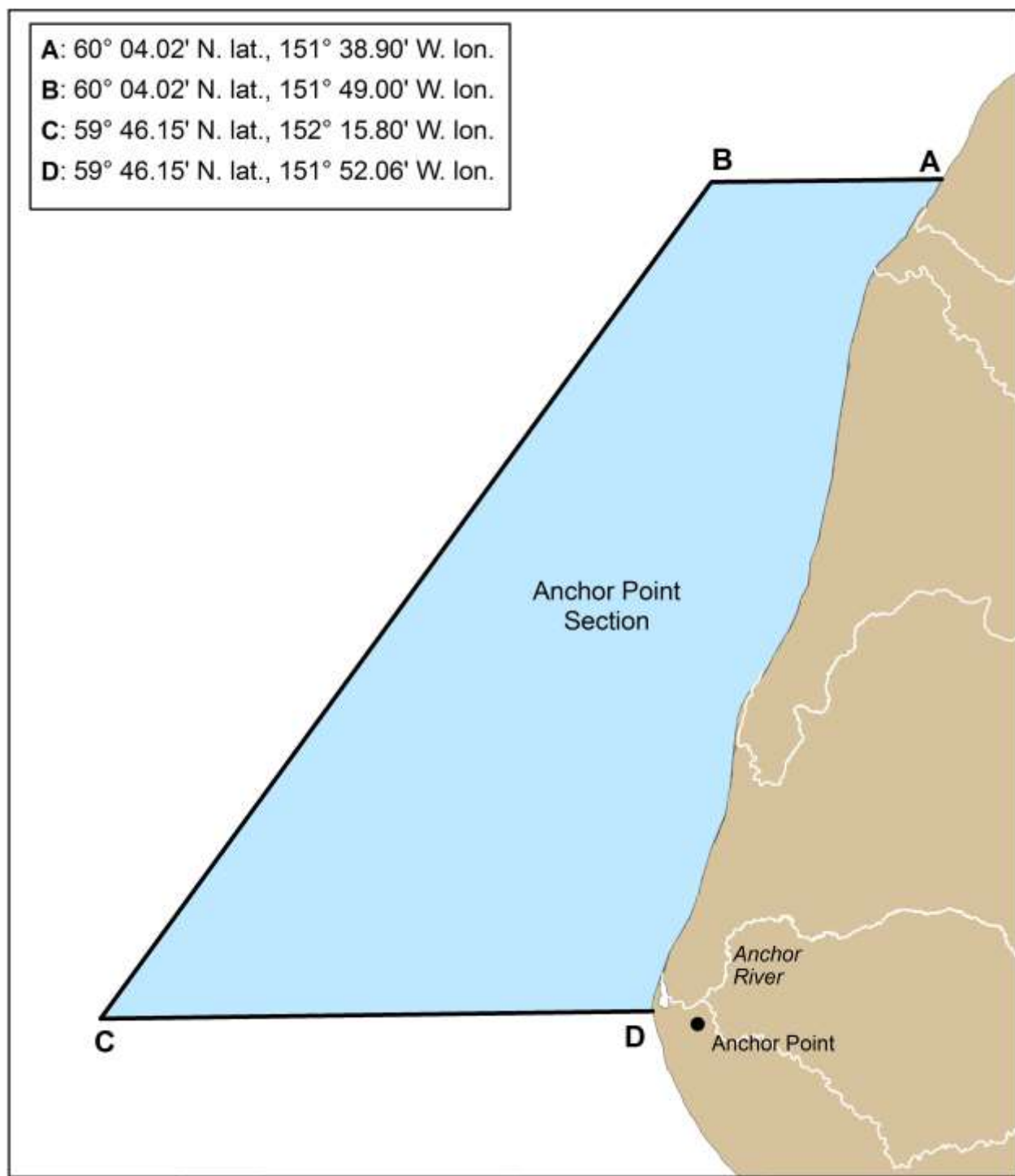


Figure 3. Drift gillnet boundaries for the Anchor Point Section.