UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 20
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-20-19

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 20 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Foreland sections of the Upper Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

This announcement also opens commercial fishing with drift gillnets in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and in the Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

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that gear restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, as identified in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(A)(i), are no longer in effect.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.

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 29, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is 84% complete based on average run timing and projects a final escapement of more than 364,000 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 66% complete through July 29 and projects a final passage of more than 1.59 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.