UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 21
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-21-19

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 21 modifies and continues gear reductions in the Northern District set gillnet fishery. With this announcement legal gear in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District south of the Susitna River, and in the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet is limited to no more than two set gillnets per permit, with the aggregate length not to exceed 70 fathoms, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2019, and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2019. Legal gear in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District east of the Susitna River, which includes Fire Island (Figure 1), will be limited to no more than one set gillnet per permit, measuring no more than 35 fathoms in length, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2019, and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2019 (please see Figure 2 for a list of set gillnet statistical areas in Upper Cook Inlet).

All of the Northern District set gillnet fishery will return to a full complement of gear, as described in 5 AAC 21.331 Gillnet Specifications and Operations, beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2019.

Susitna River sockeye salmon were found by the Alaska Board of Fisheries to be a stock of yield concern. The Susitna River Sockeye Salmon Action Plan (SSSAP) directs ADF&G through 5 AAC 21.358 Northern District Salmon Management Plan to conservatively manage the commercial fishery while research continues to better understand the productivity of this stock. The Northern District Salmon Management Plan states that from July 31 through August 6, the commissioner may allow the use of two nets in that portion of the General Subdistrict south of the Susitna River.
Areas where gear is restricted to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit on August 1 and August 5 fishing periods.

The remaining areas of the Northern District are limited to no more than two 35-fathom set gillnets per permit on August 1 and August 5

Figure 1. Map of the Northern District area affected by set gillnet restrictions.
Figure 2. Map of Upper Cook Inlet set gillnet commercial fishing statistical areas.