

**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. 25
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-25-19**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 25 closes commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Upper Subdistrict of Upper Cook Inlet from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2019.

This announcement also restricts the regularly scheduled commercial fishing period with drift gillnets to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and to the Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2019. Drift gillnetting will remain open in this area from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2019.

5 AAC 21.359(d)(1) *Kenai River Late-Run King Management Plan* states that if the projected late-run large king salmon escapement is less than 13,500 fish, the department shall close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict. As of August 3, 2019, Kenai River late-run large king salmon passage was estimated to be 9,586 fish and projected a final escapement of less than 13,500 fish for runs 1-day early or earlier. Based on this escapement projection, which is below the minimum Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 13,500 fish, closure of the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery on Monday, August 5 is warranted. Kenai River late-run king salmon escapement will continue to be monitored on a daily basis and if escapement projections estimate the SEG will be achieved, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery may be reopened.

By management plan, drifting is closed within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River during the fishing period described above. Furthermore, drifters are reminded that those waters within one and one-half mile of the mean high tide mark in the Anchor Point Section are closed when this area is open to commercial drift fishing.

Coho salmon escapement projections in both the Deshka and Little Susitna rivers are below (Deshka) or near the lower (Little Susitna) escapement goal ranges. Therefore, in order to harvest surplus Kenai and Kasilof river sockeye salmon, while minimizing harvest of Northern Cook Inlet coho salmon, the drift gillnet fishing period on Monday, August 5, 2019, is being restricted to the Expanded corridors and Anchor Point Section.

All other set gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet will fish the regularly scheduled 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. fishing period on Monday, August 5, 2019, except for setnetting in those waters of the Western Subdistrict south of the latitude of Redoubt Point, which will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.