

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



*Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 27
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-27-19**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 27 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 Thursday, August 8, 2019.

This announcement also extends commercial fishing with drift gillnets to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2019. By regulation, commercial fishing with drift gillnets will be open in all waters of the Central District normally open to drift gillnetting from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2019. This fishing period in this announcement is being provided to harvest excess Kenai and Kasilof river sockeye salmon.

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 6, 2019, Kenai River late-run large king salmon passage was estimated to be 10,198 fish and projected a final escapement of less than 13,500 fish. 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 Thursday, August 8 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, drift drifters are reminded that those waters within one and one-half miles of the mean high tide mark in the Anchor Point Section are closed when this area it is open to commercial drift fishing.

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 Thursday, August 8, 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.