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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: April 16, 2020***

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### **UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 2 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-02-20**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 2 amends Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 1 and closes commercial salmon fishing in those waters of the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet from the wood chip dock, located approximately at 61° 02.77' N. lat., 151° 10.04' W. long., to the Susitna River during the 2020 directed king salmon fishing season (Figure 1). This announcement will affect fishing periods on May 25, and June 1, 8, 15, and 22. All other provisions in Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 1 remain in effect.

King salmon originating from the Chuitna River drainage remain a stock of management concern. As a result of this finding, the king salmon sport fishery in this drainage has been closed since the 2011 season. The *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 21.366) specifies that if the Chuitna River is closed to sport fishing, the commissioner shall close the commercial king salmon fishery, by EO, from the wood chip dock to the Susitna River. This announcement implements that mandatory closure.

Northern District fishermen are also reminded of a change in regulation adopted at the 2020 UCI Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting. The board modified gear regulations that allows dual set gillnet permit holders in the Northern District to fish with one set gillnet per permit during the directed king salmon fishery. This allows one person who owns two set gillnet permits to operate up to two set gillnets total during this fishery. Each net may not exceed 35 fathoms in length.

EO 2S-01-20, which was released earlier today, opened the Northern District directed king salmon fishery to 6-hour fishing periods during the 2020 fishing season, beginning on Monday, May 25. The Northern District, including the closed waters identified in this announcement, will be open for the regular fishing season from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, beginning on Thursday, June 25, 2020.

### **COVID-19**

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

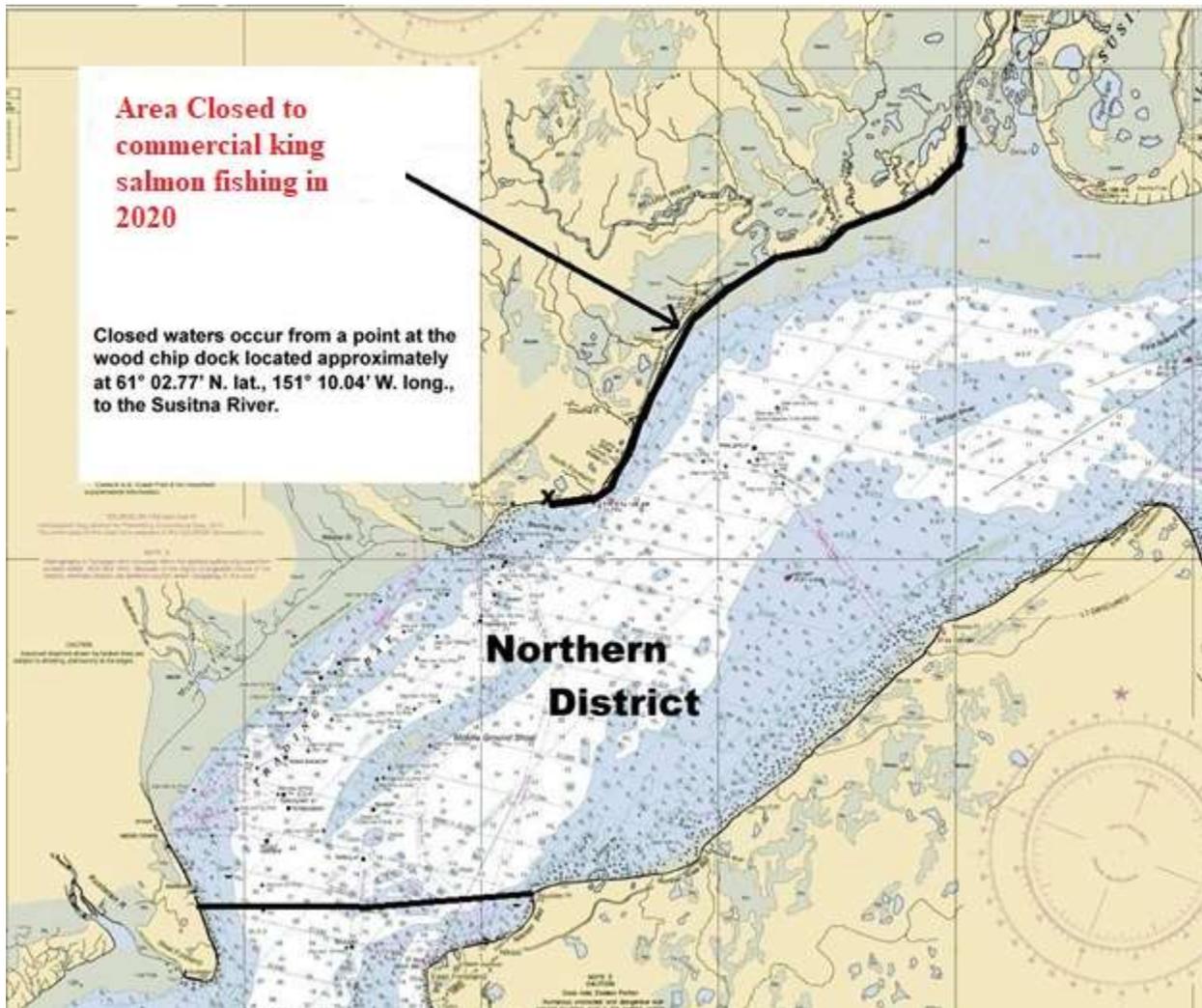


Figure 1.—Map of the area closed to commercial fishing during the 2020 Northern District set gillnet directed king salmon fishery.