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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: April 24, 2020*

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### Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #1

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) projects 494,000 hatchery released sockeye salmon will return to Resurrection Bay in 2020. Most of these fish will be targeted for cost recovery harvest; 12,800 are needed for escapement and broodstock. The remaining 144,000 fish may be available for common property harvest. Cost recovery operations will be voluntarily suspended within 100 feet of the water's edge in the Spring Creek area from the Seward Ships Drydock, north to the area of the sawdust pile from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM, 7 days per week.

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT:** CIAA anticipates 92,400 sockeye and 2.9 million pink salmon to return to Southern District release sites.

**Set gillnet:** Starting on Monday, June 1 specific waters of the Southern District identified in 5AAC 21.330(b)(1) including the Port Graham Subdistrict, will open to commercial set gillnet harvest on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week beginning at 6:00 AM on Mondays and Thursdays as defined in 5AAC 21.320(a)(3).

**Purse seine:** Portions of the Southern District are anticipated to open to commercial seine harvest on Monday, June 15.

**KAMISHAK DISTRICT:** Subdistricts of the Kamishak District as defined in 5AAC 21.299(e) will open for the 2020 commercial purse seine season on June 1. Fishing periods are 7-days per week, 24-hours per day. Effective June 15, the McNeil River Subdistrict and the Paint River Subdistrict will be closed until further notice. In addition, Chenik Lagoon will open up to the freshwater of Chenik Creek effective Monday, June 15.

**OUTER DISTRICT:** Western portions of the Outer District may open on July 13 based on aerial survey observations. The Delight Lake weir will be operated by Cook Inlet Aquaculture in July. Both Delight and Desire lakes will be aerial surveyed before weir installation and during operation. Waters in the Delight Lake area may open to commercial salmon harvest in June or July based on either weir passage or aerial survey observations. The anticipated Outer District pink salmon harvest is 78,400 fish.

**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/>.

**The next scheduled commercial salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, June 5.**

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307. Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>,

which may also be accessed by scanning the adjacent Quick Read (QR) code using a smart phone,

