

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #3

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-02-20

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area. Please refer to Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #2 for the start dates of the front-end closure in subsistence sections 1-5 (Mouth of Kuskokwim River to Headwaters).

COVID-19

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

Subsistence fishing with set gillnets in the Kuskokwim River mainstem will be open during the following times:

Subsistence Sections 1-3 (Yukon Delta Refuge boundary at mouth of the Kuskokwim River to Yukon Delta Refuge boundary near Aniak):

- Open with 6-inch or less mesh size set gillnets from **11:00 a.m. on June 3 until 11:00 a.m. on June 4**. Set gillnets may not exceed 60 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth and may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
- Open with 6-inch or less mesh size set gillnets from **11:00 a.m. on June 6 until 11:00 a.m. on June 7**. Set gillnets may not exceed 60 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth and may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
- Open with 6-inch or less mesh size set gillnets from **11:00 a.m. on June 9 until 11:00 a.m. on June 10**. Set gillnets may not exceed 60 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth and may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.

Subsistence Section 4 (Yukon Delta Refuge boundary near Aniak to the ADF&G regulatory markers near the Holitna River mouth) **Notice the front-end closure begins June 9 at 12:01 am in Section 4:**

- Open with 6-inch or less mesh size set gillnets from **11:00 a.m. on June 9 until 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10**. Set gillnets may not exceed 60 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth and may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group voted to support these subsistence fishing periods during their preseason meeting on May 5–6.

A reminder to subsistence fishermen: All subsistence gillnets must have a keg or buoy attached to the net with the fisherman's first initial, last name and an address clearly written on it.

As previously announced subsistence fishing with hook and line, fish wheels equipped with live boxes or chutes, beach seines, and dip nets is currently allowed until further notice though any Chinook salmon caught with these gear types must be returned immediately to the water alive.

As a reminder the next meeting of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., by teleconference. This meeting is open to the public. Please call 1-800-365-6338 passcode: 58756#, to attend via teleconference.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), local radio stations, and Kuskokwim River Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/KuskoRiverFishingADFG/>). News releases will be faxed to area villages. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

Federal Special Action

Management of the king salmon subsistence fishery from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak (defined as the Federal Conservation Unit) will be under authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Federal Inseason Manager. For information regarding king salmon subsistence fishing within the Yukon Delta NWR please contact USFWS at 907-543-3151 or 907-543-1003.

**For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:
ADF&G: Nicholas Smith in Anchorage 907-267-2379 or Ben Gray 907-543-2331**

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