

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 9, 2020

Time: 4:04 p.m.

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Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #4

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-03-20

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area. The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group voted to support these management actions during their preseason meeting on May 5–6, 2020.

Subsistence Sections 4 & 5 (Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River):

- Subsistence fishing with **6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth**, will be allowed from **12:01 a.m. on June 12, 2020 until further notice**. Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line until further notice.

In addition, the waters of the Kuskokwim River near Aniak, from a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.264' N, long 159° 33.459' W and lat 61° 35.611' N, long 159° 33.260' W upstream to a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.308' N, long 159° 29.167' W and lat 61° 34.731' N, long 159° 28.939' W (**Figure 1**), **will remain closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets beginning 12:01 a.m. June 12, 2020 until further notice**. Subsistence fishing with hook and line, fish wheels equipped with a live box or chute, beach seines and dip nets is allowed, **but all Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive**. These closed waters are in place to help provide protection for Chinook salmon bound for the Aniak River.

As previously announced:

- Subsistence fishing with gillnets will continue to be closed in the Aniak River drainage to the ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group:

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 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.

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) is under the 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.

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/>

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 the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

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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Figure 1.– Map of Aniak area closed waters.