

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 15, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

CONTACT: Ben Gray and Nick Smith
Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists

Bethel - (907) 543-2331 Anchorage - (907) 267-2379

Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery Announcement #10

Districts 4 and 5 Commercial Fishery

Emergency Order 3-S-WB-10-20

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for commercial fishermen in Districts W4 & W5, Kuskokwim Bay.

There is one commercial processor registered to buy in the Kuskokwim Bay Area; Please contact Jon Saarheim with WildFish Marketing at 907-236-6024 with questions regarding selling your catch. It is the commercial fisherman's responsibility to ensure that they have a market for their catch.

Permit holders must be in possession of a 2020 Kuskokwim Area commercial salmon permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. All crewmembers must have a 2020 commercial crewmember's license or a 2020 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit.

All harvest information concerning this fishery are confidential until the close of the season, 5 AAC 39.135.

District 4, Quinhagak:

Commercial fishing will open in District 4, Quinhagak for 3 12-hour periods with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets that may not exceed 50 fathoms in length and not more than 45 meshes deep:

- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday, August 17
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 19
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, August 21

District 4 consists of the Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the northernmost edge of the mouth of Weelung Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River.

ADF&G will assess the catches from these 3 periods before deciding on the next commercial fishing period.

In District 4, **Subsistence fishing will be closed during the following times:**

- 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 17 until 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 18
- 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 19 until 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 20
- 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 21 until 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 22

District 5, Goodnews Bay

Commercial fishing will open in District 5, Goodnews Bay for 5 12-hour periods with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets that may not exceed 50 fathoms in length and not more than 45 meshes deep:

- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday, August 17
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 18
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 19
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, August 20
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, August 21

District 5 consists of that portion of Goodnews Bay east of a line from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles south on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles north on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay and west of a line between the mouth of Ukfigag Creek at lat 59° 04.17' N., long 161° 36' W., and the mouth of the Tunulik River at lat 59° 08' N., long 161° 37' W.

ADF&G will assess the catches from these 5 periods before deciding on the next commercial fishing period.

In District 5, **Subsistence fishing will be closed during the following times:**

- 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 17 until 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 22

Fishermen in Districts 4 and 5 are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages.

COVID-19

Under Alaska Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, 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 Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. Advisory Announcements will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:

ADF&G: Ben Gray in Bethel 907-543-2331 or Nicholas Smith in Anchorage 907-267-2379

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