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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 30, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM

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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery Announcement #1

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Set gillnet: Starting on Tuesday, 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). The first fishing period on Tuesday, June 1 will be 24 hours in length from 6:00 AM on June 1 until 6:00 AM Wednesday, June 2.

Commercial set gillnet fishermen in Lower Cook Inlet that have dual, (aka "stacked") Area H Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits are reminded that the serial numbers for both permits are required to be documented on each fish ticket submitted regardless of the quantity of gear used. An example of this is shown in Figure 1 on page two of this announcement.

Purse seine: Portions of the Southern District are anticipated to open to commercial seine harvest on Monday, June 14.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) projects 211,700 hatchery released sockeye salmon will return to Resurrection Bay in 2021. One hundred and eighty-nine thousand of these fish will be targeted for cost recovery harvest and 12,800 are needed for escapement and broodstock. Fish surplus to these needs will 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.

KAMISHAK DISTRICT: Subdistricts of the Kamishak District as defined in 5AAC 21.299(e) will open for the 2021 commercial purse seine season on June 1. Fishing periods are 7-days per week, 24-hours per day. Effective June 14, 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 14.

<u>OUTER DISTRICT</u>: Western portions of the Outer District may open on July 12 based on aerial survey observations. The Delight Lake weir will be operated by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association 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 2021 anticipated Outer District pink salmon harvest is 1.7 million fish.

<u>COVID-19</u>: Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/COVID-19 and may also be accessed by scanning the quick read (OR) code at right using a smart phone.

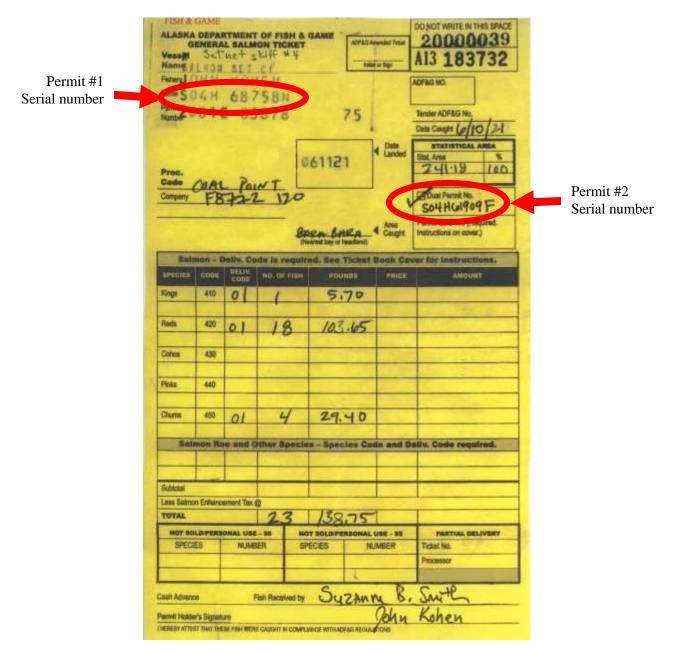


Figure 1.- Example fish ticket for dual, (aka "stacked") Lower Cook Inlet commercial set gillnet permit holders showing serial numbers from both Area H commercial CFEC set gillnet permits documented.

The next scheduled commercial salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, June 4.

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307.

Current Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing regulation books are available at ADF&G offices, and online here: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2020_2022_cf_cook_inlet_salmon.pdf
This website may also be accessed by scanning the QR code at right.



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 QR code,