

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 4 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-04-21

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4 modifies 5AAC 21.320(a)(2)(E) Weekly Fishing Periods with set gillnets in all waters of the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District, effective immediately. During the 2021 fishing season, salmon may be taken with set gillnets in the Upper Subdistrict only during fishing periods established by Emergency Order (EO), unless modified by subsequent EO.

All Central District fisheries other than the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery are not affected by this EO.

On June 17, 2021, the Department issued EO No. 2-KS-1-24-21 restricting the king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River beginning July 1, 2020. This announcement states, "In order to achieve the Kenai River late-run king salmon escapement goal, we are starting the July fishery without bait. Based upon the preseason forecast, this restriction is warranted to increase the likelihood that the escapement goal will be met, and still provide fishing opportunity for Kenai River late-run king salmon."

According to 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(A) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, in order to achieve the OEG and provide reasonable harvest opportunity for the king salmon sport fishery, if the sport fishery is restricted to no bait, commercial fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, are open for no more than 48 hours per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. With regularly scheduled 2021 fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays no longer in effect in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, all commercial set gillnet fishing time provided to this subdistrict will occur only via EO, unless these restrictions are amended by a future EO.

In addition to all fishing time coming via EO only in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has also mandated gear restrictions during all Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishing periods when the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery is restricted. These

mandatory gear restrictions are to be implemented from the beginning of the season through July 31 in the entire Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery. The specific gear restriction option that ADF&G chooses to implement will be identified in each UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement.

COVID-19

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 maybe found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.