Division of Commercial Fisheries Sam Rabung, Director

Homer Area Office 3298 Douglas Place Homer, AK 99603-7942



Alaska Department of Fish and Game Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

> PO Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526 www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 28, 2023 *Time:* 2:00 PM CONTACT: Glenn Hollowell Finfish Management Biologist (907) 235-8191

Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery Advisory Announcement #1

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Set gillnet: Effective Thursday, 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).

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 12.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) projects 78,092 hatchery released sockeye salmon will return to Resurrection Bay in 2023. Fifty-eight thousand and eight hundred of these fish will be targeted for cost recovery harvest and 12,200 are needed for escapement and broodstock. Approximately 7,000 fish are anticipated to be surplus to these needs and may 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), excluding the McNeil River Subdistrict, Paint River Subdistrict, Chenik Subdistrict, and Kirschner Lake special harvest area, will open for the 2023 commercial purse seine season on June 1. Fishing periods are 7-days per week, 24-hours per day. The department intends to monitor sockeye salmon escapement into Chenik Lake in real time using video relayed from that location via satellite. Fishing opportunity in the Chenik Subdistrict is anticipated to occur in late June.

OUTER DISTRICT: Western portions of the Outer District may open in late July based on aerial survey observations. The Delight Lake weir will not be operated in 2023 due to budgetary shortfalls. Escapement to Delight Lake will be monitored using aerial surveys. The 2023 anticipated Outer District pink salmon harvest is 1.7 million fish. Commercial pink salmon harvest from this district in 2021 was 1.6 million, and in 2019 was 1.7 million fish.

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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 9.

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: <u>https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2020_2022_cf_cook_inlet_salmon.pdf</u> 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: <u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon</u>, which may also be accessed by scanning the adjacent QR code,

