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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 5, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.

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BRISTOL BAY 2026 SALMON FISHERY UPDATE

This is the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in King Salmon and Dillingham with an update for permit holders and subsistence users in all Bristol Bay salmon fishing districts. The time is **9:00 a.m.**, and the date is **Friday, June 5, 2026.**

This update is intended to clarify how the Bristol Bay salmon fishery will be managed at the start of the 2026 season and serves as a supplement to the Commercial Salmon Fishing Outlook released on March 23, 2026. New regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in January 2026 that modified the Bristol Bay salmon fisheries (5 AAC 06.001–5 AAC 06.391) are still undergoing review by the Alaska Department of Law, therefore fisheries will be managed consistent with the existing codified regulations until the new regulations become effective 30 days after they are filed by the Lieutenant Governor.

The current codified Bristol Bay Subsistence, Commercial Salmon and Herring, and Statewide Regulations (5 AAC 06.001–5 AAC 06.391) are available at:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/cf_bristolbay_2023_2026.pdf

The department will use its Emergency Order (EO) authority to implement regulations specific to king salmon conservation. Provisions of the *Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan*, including the new king salmon triggers, will be applied during the 2026 season. Management actions for Nushagak District king salmon, as outlined in the March Outlook, remain in place and will guide inseason decision-making.

The following Board-adopted changes will **not** be in effect at the start of the season, as indicated in the March Outlook, but **may become effective midseason** once filed and after the 30-day notice period:

Baywide

- Board adopted vessel specifications and operations (5 AAC 06.341) reverts to the 2025 regulations.

Ugashik District

- In the Ugashik Village subdistrict, the set gillnet offshore distance described in 5 AAC 06.331 (m)(8) reverts to the 2025 regulation of 800 feet.

Nushagak District

- Requirements for the mandatory retention of king salmon caught in the Nushagak District and the further requirement that those fish be sold or donated and not be retained for personal use will not be in effect to start the season.
- The set gillnet lines described in 5 AAC 06.331(n)(2)–(4) revert to the 2022 regulations because of the sunset clause (v). That means (2) would be 500 feet from the mean high tide mark, (3) would be 700 feet from the mean high tide mark, and (4) would be 1,000 feet from the mean high tide mark.
- Required distance between drift and set gillnet gear (5 AAC 06.335) reverts to 2025 regulations.

Togiak District

- The fishing schedule in Kulukak Section (5 AAC 06.320(a)(2)) reverts to Monday 9:00 a.m. until Wednesday 9:00 p.m.
- The change regarding the 48-hour maximum extension (5 AAC 06.369(c)(3)) reverts to the 2025 regulation.