

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director

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

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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 5, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Madison Hardwig and Sam Decker

Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists

(907) 459-7213 or (907) 543-2433

Kuskokwim Bay Fishery Announcement #3

District 5 Commercial Fishery

Emergency Order #3-S-WB-02-26

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

Sockeye salmon run strengths in the Kuskokwim area have been increasing over the last 20 years. While Chinook salmon run strengths have been lower than average. Assessment projects across Western Alaska indicate a stronger than expected chum salmon run which is reflected in fishers' subsistence harvest reports. The department has determined that there is an available surplus of sockeye salmon to allow for a commercial fishery.

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.

Fishermen must have their CFEC permit valid for the 2026 season and a government issued I.D. or Driver's License. All crewmembers must have a 2026 commercial crewmember's license or a 2026 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit.

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

District 5, Goodnews Bay

Commercial fishing will open in District 5, Goodnews Bay for a **12-hour period from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2026.**

The open area for this period is reduced for the conservation of Chinook Salmon. A boundary line will be in place, from approximately Big Beluga on the north side of the bay to Little Beluga on the south side of the bay. District 5 will be open to commercial fishing from this line to the western boundary of District 5 on the outside of the North and South Spits (Figure 1).

As a reminder: Gillnets must be 6-inch or less mesh gillnets and may not exceed 50 fathoms in length and not more than 45 meshes deep.

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

- **12:01 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2026 until 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2026**

ADF&G will assess the catches from Monday's period before deciding on the next commercial fishing period.

Fishermen in District 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.

The department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and announcement of additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska website (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), local radio stations, and Kuskokwim River Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/KuskoRiverFishingADFG/>). Advisory Announcements will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:

ADF&G: Madison Hardwig (907) 459-7213 or Sam Decker (907) 459-7295, (907) 543-2433

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Kuskokwim Management Area District W-5

Goodnews Bay

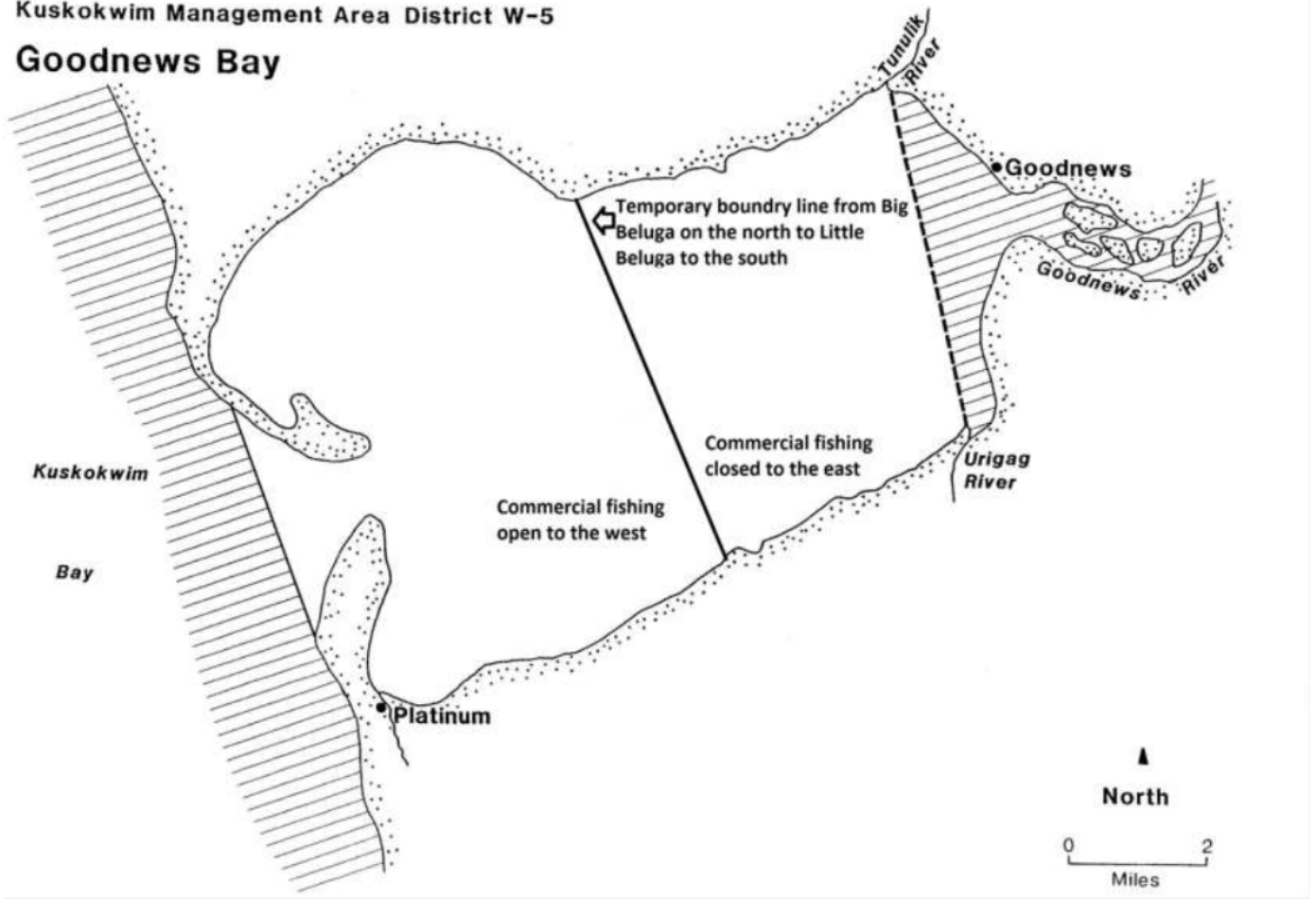


Figure 1. Half District line, District 5, Goodnews Bay