ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner Scott Kelley, Director



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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 24 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-24-16

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 24 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Foreland sections of the Upper Subdistrict from 5:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2016. This fishing period is a combination of the regularly scheduled period, which will occur from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., and additional time.

Drift gillnetting will be opened in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and in the Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict (Figure 1) from 5:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2016.

According to 5AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, from July 16 through July 31, at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, one regular 12-hour fishing period per week will be restricted to one or more of the following sections: 1) Expanded Kenai Section of the Upper Subdistrict; 2) Expanded Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict; 3) Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict. This fishing period is in compliance with the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

The passage rate of sockeye salmon into the Kenai and Kasilof rivers is proceeding at a rate greater than that needed to assure optimum escapement levels. In order to reduce the rate of passage and harvest surplus sockeye salmon bound for the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, fishing time in the above-described area is warranted.

5 AAC 21.360 Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan states that the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is restricted to no more than 84-hours of additional fishing time per week beginning on July 8. With this fishing announcement, 15 hours of additional time will have been used for the week of July 24–July 30.

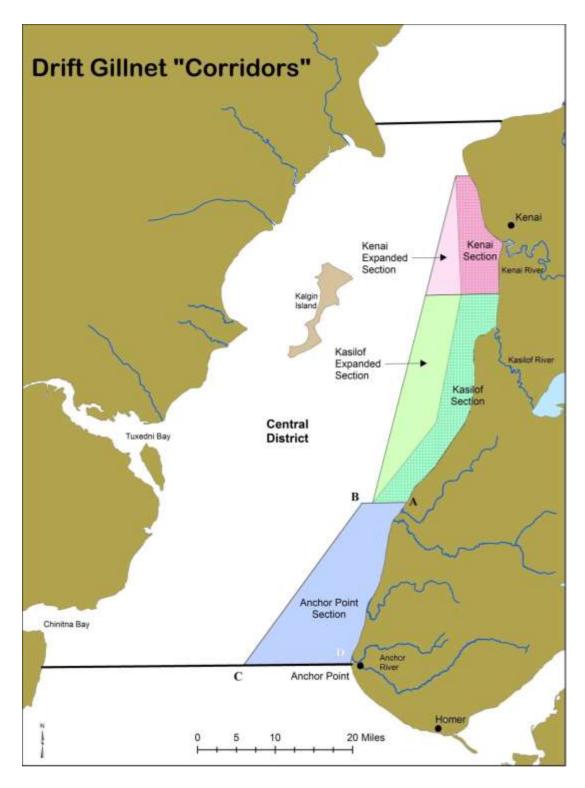


Figure 1. Map of the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point sections. Coordinates of the Anchor Point Section are: A) 60° 04.02' N., 151° 38.90' W.; B) 60° 04.02' N., 151° 49.00' W.; C) 59° 46.15' N., 152° 15.80' W.; D) 59° 46.15' N., 151° 52.06' W.