

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



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**2018 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #5  
Emergency Orders; #3-S-WR-04-18**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

**Federal Special Action**

Beginning June 12, management of the subsistence fishery from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak (defined as the Federal Conservation Unit) will be under authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Federal Inseason Manager. For information regarding subsistence fishing within this area please contact USFWS at 907-543-3151 or 907-543-1008.

**From the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak upstream to the Holitna River mouth:  
Section 4**

**Subsistence fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth, will open for 12 hours from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2018.** Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, beach seines, and hook and line, and gillnets during this gillnet opener.

**The waters of the Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak upstream to a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.308' N, long 159° 29.167' W and lat 61° 34.731' N, long 159° 28.939' W (Figure 1) will remain closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets until further notice.** These closed waters are in place to help provide protection for Chinook salmon bound for the Aniak River.

As previously announced, subsistence fishing with gillnets remains closed in the Aniak River.

**From the Holitna River mouth to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River: Section 5**

**Subsistence fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth , will be allowed from 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 12 until further notice.**

Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, beach seines, and hook and line gear until further notice in Section 5.

These subsistence fishery openings were supported by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Group at the recent public meeting on June 7, 2018 held in Bethel. Additional subsistence fishing openings will be announced based on inseason Chinook salmon run strength indicators with support from the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

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Figure 1.— Map of Aniak area closed waters.