

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite B Soldotna, Alaska 99669 Main: 907.262.9368 Fax: 907.262.4709

June 4, 2025

TO ALL PERMIT HOLDERS, PROCESSORS AND BUYERS OF UPPER COOK INLET SALMON:

As the 2025 fishing season is rapidly approaching, this is an appropriate time to remind you of some important catch reporting requirements.

Catch reporting responsibilities for the 2025 season will be the same in State of Alaska waters as in previous years. Catch figures must be reported to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) no later than 12:00 noon on the day following a fishing period. Early reports are very much appreciated. The sooner you can summarize and tabulate your purchases and report these figures to us, the more lead time we will be able to provide in announcing additional fishing periods, if warranted. In addition to the call-in, emailed, or faxed reports, **the yellow ADF&G copy of all paper fish tickets and the ADF&G copy of E-landings or T-landings tickets must be turned into a department representative at your local ADF&G office within 7 days after landing.** The ADF&G offices in Soldotna, Homer and Anchorage are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additionally, the yellow ADF&G copy of all paper fish tickets and the ADF&G copy of E-landings or T-landings tickets can be mailed to the Soldotna Fish and Game office postmarked within 7 days after landing. Please note that all salmon retained for personal use by permit holders need to be reported on a fish ticket and included in your report to ADF&G. A sample paper fish ticket and electronic fish ticket have been included in this packet for those not familiar with how fish tickets are to be filled out.

ADF&G is keenly aware of the logistical challenges many of you face in receiving fish at your plant or buying stations and then getting all of this information recorded on fish tickets. You and your permit holders operate in an environment where accurate determination of pounds of fish is critical. While ADF&G supports this effort, it is just as important to accurately report the number of fish you purchase. The following statute (16.05.690(a)) and regulation (5 AAC 39.130) legally obligate you to accurately report **<u>numbers</u>** of fish. If physically counting the number of fish you purchase is too time-consuming, then please sub-sample during each fishing period to determine the average weight, i.e., count and weigh one hundred fish or count and weigh a tote to determine an average weight per fish per species. This data is critical to the department so biologists can accurately make important inseason management decisions about various fisheries. The common practice of dividing the total weight of a permit holders' catch by a "guess" of the average weight per species (for example, 6lbs. or 7lbs. for sockeye salmon) **is not acceptable**.

There are several permitting and registration requirements a company must meet before operating for the season. First, buyers and processors must have a current Fishery Business License with the Department of Revenue (DOR) valid for the calendar year they are operating. For help with your Fishery Business License contact DOR at (907) 269-6620. ADF&G works with DOR to send your fish tickets and code plates after your Fishery Business License is approved. You do not need to request these materials separately. Second, if you are processing, packaging, or transporting commercially harvested fish you may need additional permitting from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). To learn more about these requirements, contact DEC at (907) 269-7628. Lastly, you must register your fishing area with the ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries office in Soldotna prior to taking the first delivery.

A catcher-seller permit allows a CFEC permit holder to sell their unprocessed catch directly to the public from their harvesting vessel or from the dock. A catcher-seller cannot process their catch and cannot have a processor custom process their catch for them. Filleting and freezing are considered processing and would not be allowed with a Catcher-Seller permit. The catcher-seller permit is issued by ADF&G and applications can be submitted by paper or

through the Department of Revenue online system. This permit must be renewed every calendar year to be valid. For further information see the Catcher-Seller Handout in Figure 5.

A fish transporter works on behalf of the CFEC permit holder to remove the catch from the harvesting vessel, transport, and sell the catch to a licensed processor or directly to the public (if the CFEC permit holder has a current Catcher-Seller permit). Fish transporters can only transport Pacific cod, salmon, and herring. The fish transporter permit is issued by ADF&G and applications can be submitted through the Department of Revenue online system. This permit must be renewed every calendar year to be valid. For further information see the Fish Transporters FAQ in Figure 6.

The following is a brief outlook for the 2025 commercial salmon fishing season. For the entire set gillnet and drift gillnet outlooks, please see the links below:

Set Gillnet: <u>https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1664462500.pdf</u> Drift Gillnet: <u>https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1664306824.pdf</u>

In 2025, a run of approximately 6.9 million sockeye salmon is forecast to return to UCI with an estimate of 4.9 million available for harvest. This UCI forecast is average compared to historical total run estimates from 1986 to present.

The Kenai River sockeye salmon forecast is approximately 4.2 million fish. The 2025 Kenai River forecast is 302,400 (7.5%) fish more than the historical (1986–2024) average run of 3.8 million, and 968,000 (26%) fish more than the recent 10-year (2015–2024) average run.

The Kasilof River sockeye salmon run forecast is approximately 1.2 million fish. The 2025 forecast is 311,000 fish (28%) greater than the historical (1986–2024) average run of 930,000 fish and 261,000 fish (23.5%) greater than the recent 10-year (2015–2024) average run.

All Cook Inlet set gillnet permit holders are required to register for one of three Cook Inlet areas prior to fishing. The registration areas are: 1) Upper Subdistrict of the Central District; 2) Northern District; or, 3) all remaining areas of Cook Inlet (Greater Cook Inlet). Once registered for one of these three areas, permit holders may fish only in that area for the remainder of the year. No transfers will be permitted. Dual permit holders must register both permits in the same registration area. Set gillnet permit holders fishing in the Northern District or the Greater Cook Inlet area can register in person at department offices in Soldotna, Homer, or Anchorage, or by mail, or electronically (more information about electronic registration can be found in the following paragraph). Mail-in forms are available at area offices or on the department's homepage under "Registration Forms" at: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareauci.salmon#management

Permit holders wishing to register in person for the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District must register and purchase buoy stickers in the **Soldotna ADF&G office**. Permit holders will need to register and purchase buoy stickers for the Upper Subdistrict if they are participating in the commercial dip net fishery. Electronic registration and buoy sticker purchasing, formerly offered by UCIERA, can now be done online using your myADFG profile. Detailed instructions for online registration and buoy sticker purchasing can be found online at:

<u>https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/registration_buoys_tags_stickers_guide.pdf</u>. Permit holders will need to create an ADF&G profile to access the new registration/sticker application. If permit holders have any questions about the new online registration process, please contact the Soldotna ADF&G office.

If you have any questions concerning catch reporting or any uncertainties about how to fill out fish tickets or complete the electronic registration process, please contact the Fish Ticket Clerk by phone at (907) 260-2910 (office) or (907) 953-4002 (cell phone- able to receive text messages) or Lucas Stumpf at (907) 260-2916. If you would like an electronic copy of the buyer's report form, please contact our office and we would be happy to email you a copy.

For questions regarding the upcoming fishing season and management scenarios, please contact either Colton Lipka at (907) 260-2907 (office) or at (907) 420-7740 (cell phone – able to receive text messages or Lucas Stumpf at (907) 260-2916. As always, the commercial fisheries information line (recorded message) is (907) 262-9611. The main phone line for the Soldotna office (907) 262-9368.

An email address was created in 2024 for the UCI fish ticket clerk, any inquiries and/or submissions regarding fish tickets should be sent to the address: <u>dfg.dcf.uci.fishtickets@alaska.gov</u>

Please send all UCI salmon fish tickets and summary forms to:

ATTN: Fish Ticket Clerk Alaska Department of Fish and Game 43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite B Soldotna, AK 99669 email: dfg.dcf.uci.fishtickets@alaska.gov

Fax reports to: (907) 262-4709 Call reports to: (907) 260-2910 (Office) (907) 953-4002 (Mobile phone – can receive text messages)

(please leave a message during non-business hours)

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME SALMON BUYERS REPORT UPPER COOK INLET SET GILLNET

Company: _____

Prepared By:

Fishing Period Date:

Time:

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Big River 245-55						
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Chinitna Bay 245-10						
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West Side 246-10						
East Side 246-20						
		Northern	·			

			Norther	n District			
Statistical Area Name and Number		No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of
		Deliveries	Kings	Reds	Coho	Pinks	Chums
General Subdistrict							
Trading Bay	247-10						
Tyonek	247-20						
Beluga	247-30						
Su Flats	247-41						
Pt. Mackenzie	247-42						
Fire Island	247-43						

Eastern Subdistrict

Lastern Subdistrict				
Pt Possession	247-70			
Birch Hill	247-80			
#3 Bay	247-90			

Report <u>Numbers of Fish Only</u> by completing this form and emailing to:

dfg.dcf.uci.fishtickets@alaska.gov

OR by calling the Fish Ticket Clerk before NOON the day after a commercial period: Office Phone: (907) 260-2910 Mobile Phone: (907) 953-4002

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 43961 K-Beach Road, Suite B, Soldotna, AK 99669 Updated April 2025

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME SALMON BUYERS REPORT UPPER COOK INLET DRIFT GILLNET

Company: _____

Prepared By:

Fishing Period Date: _____

Time:

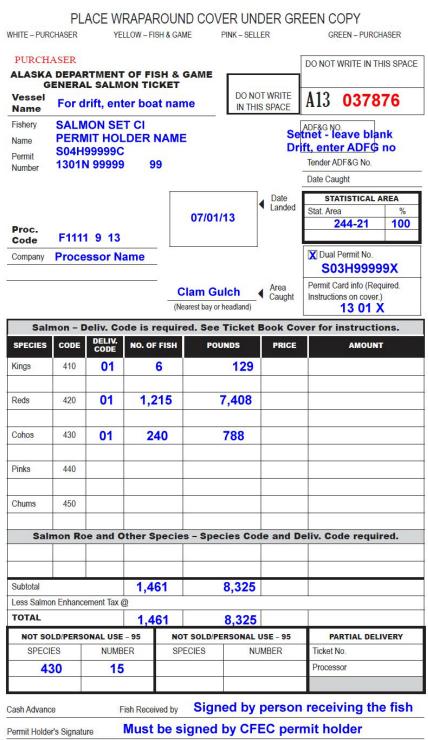
State Of Alaska Fishery								
Statistical Area Name and Number		No. of Deliveries	No. of Kings	No. of Reds	No. of Cohos	No. of Pinks	No. of Chums	
	244.26	Deliveries	Kings	Reus	Collos	FIIIKS	Chuins	
Kasilof River SHA	244-26							
Northeast Drift	244-50							
Kenai Corridor Only	244-51							
Expanded Kenai Corridor	244-52							
Full Corridor	244-55							
Expanded Full Corridor	244-56							
Expanded Full Corridor & AP Sec.	244-57							
Kasilof Corridor only	244-61							
Expanded Kasilof Corridor	244-62							
Anchor Point Section	244-63							
Central East Drift	244-70							
Chinitna Bay	245-10							
Northwest Drift	245-70							
Central West Drift	245-80							
Southwest Drift	245-90							

Federal Fishery										
Statistical Area Name and Number		No. of Deliveries	No. of Kings	No. of Reds	No. of Cohos	No. of Pinks	No. of Chums			
UCI EEZ	244-64									

Report<u>Numbers of Fish Only</u> by completing this form and emailing to: dfg.dcf.uci.fishtickets@alaska.gov

OR by calling the Fish Ticket Clerk before NOON the day after a commercial period: Office Phone: (907) 260-2910 Mobile Phone: (907) 953-4002

Please Note the Following:



I HEREBY ATTEST THAT THESE FISH WERE CAUGHT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ADF&G REGULATIONS.

Vessel Name: for set gillnets, you can leave blank or enter an R. Setnet skiff names are not required here. Drift vessel name <u>must</u> be entered here.

Permit Information: Please, please, please make sure the permit holder name, permit number with check digit, and all numbers from the CFEC card are legible.

Proc. Code: every fish ticket must have this clearly recorded. For catcher-sellers, this is the little plate number you received with your fish tickets and starts with the letter **C**.

Date Caught: if you enter in the wrong date, for example, a day in which the fishery was closed, and then you sign the fish ticket, this is a citable offense.

Statistical Area: Please ensure this is entered and correct. Like the date caught, if you enter a stat area that was closed, you have attested to fishing in closed waters.

Dual Permit No: this is where the second permit from Drift D-boats is entered. Fill out both lines.

Harvest Data: please enter in the no. of fish and pounds of fish; we ask that you don't guess how many fish; at least do a subsample to obtain an average weight that can be divided into the total pounds purchased, which will provide a more accurate number of fish.

Personal Use: all fish not sold, and retained for personal use **must** be recorded here. We only need the number of fish by species, not pounds of fish. All tickets must be signed by the permit holder and the person receiving the fish. For catcher-sellers, only the permit holder needs to sign. Please note that when the permit holder signs the fish ticket they are attesting that the information on the fish ticket is correct.

DUAL Permit Holder's must have second signature somewhere on the ticket if it is 2 separate people.

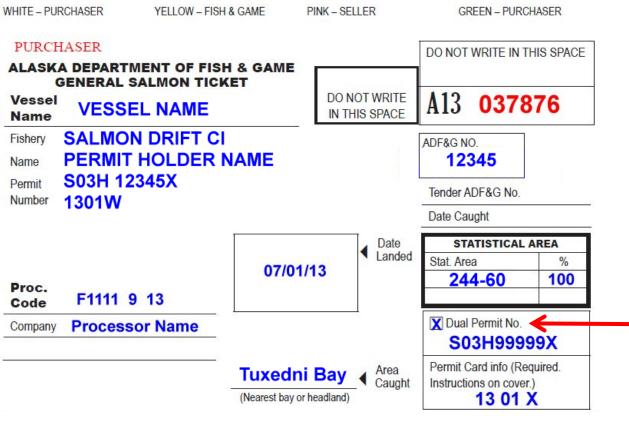
SYNOPSIS OF JOINT OPERATION OF 200 FATHOMS FOR DRIFT GILLNET PERMIT HOLDERS

- 1. D-boat operators do NOT have to register with ADF&G.
- 2. Must display a "D" 12 inches high on both sides of the boat when fishing 200 fathoms of gear.
- 3. Can use up to 200 fathoms in all areas, except the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. Both permit holders must be aboard anytime 200 fathoms of gear is being fished.
- 4. The "**D**" must be covered if only one permit holder is aboard at any time gear will be deployed. In addition, if only one permit holder is aboard, and the boat is fishing, only 150 fathoms can be on the reel and the additional 50 fathoms (or any amount of gear over 150 fathoms) must be put in a bag and secured.
- 5. If two permit holders are on one vessel, it is allowable to have 200 fathoms of gear on board and on the reel when transiting through areas where the legal limit of gear is less than 200, fathoms as long as no portion of the net is deployed into the water. As of 2017, you may have 200 fathoms of gear on your reel when fishing in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area, but are limited to fishing only 50 fathoms of gear.

Fish Tickets and D-boat Fishing

Paper fish tickets allow for the identification of the second permit holder's information when drift D-boat fishing. As you can see on the following page, there is a dedicated section on the fish ticket (see red arrow) to check for dual permits. When D-boat fishing occurs, you check the dual permit box and record the second permit holder's permit number and the numbers that appears on the last line of the fisherman's permit card (an example is provided below). Although there is no dedicated location for dual permit holders to sign, the second permit holder **MUST** sign the fish ticket somewhere on the dual-permit ticket.

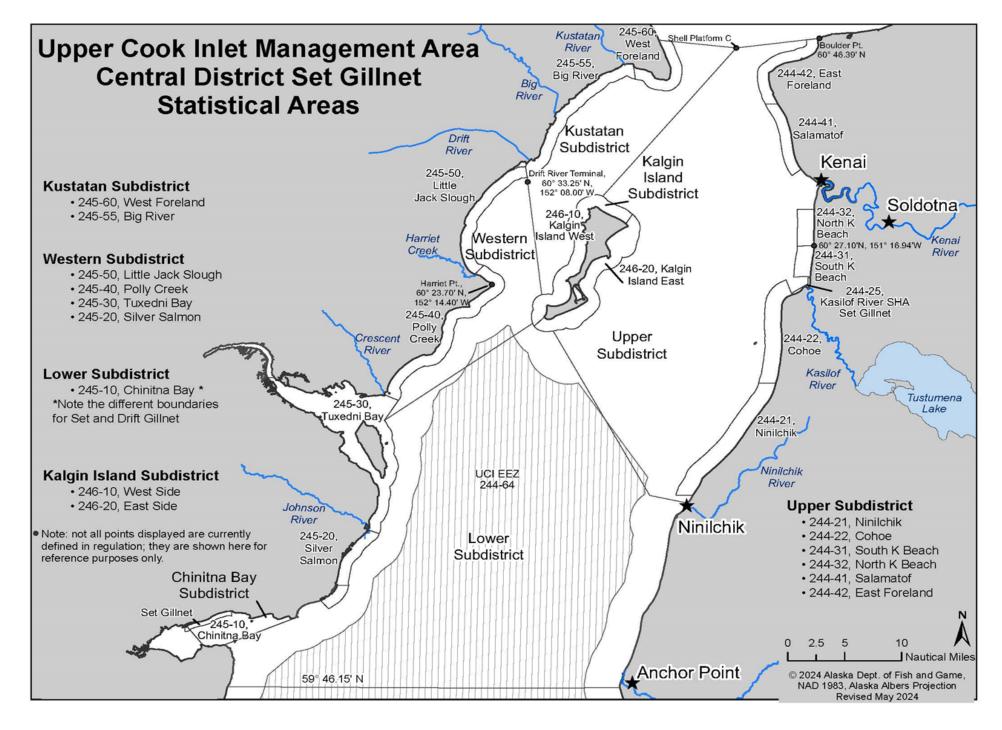
PLACE WRAPAROUND COVER UNDER GREEN COPY



Electronic tickets (see the following page for an example of an e-ticket) allow for the identification of the presence of a second permit holder (a check box). <u>The second permit holder's serial number must either be handwritten</u> or embossed on the ticket and the second permit holder MUST sign the e-ticket in the designated location.

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						1-95	\perp	100					
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Vessel ADF&G NO.		Mgmt Pgm			LE		Port of operati	or off-shore					
Permit S15B 00129Q 2001P					Tender AD	F&G No.		34365		COR			
TOM TROLLER					Tender Na	me HALO				Type o	f Gear us	ed	
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20 Reds		04 Gutted	1		6	60 Sold							
30 Silvers		04 Gutted	2		11	60 Sold							
40 Pinks		04 Gutted	2		10	60 Sold							
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Figure 1. Map of Upper Cook Inlet Central District set gillnet commercial fishing statistical areas.



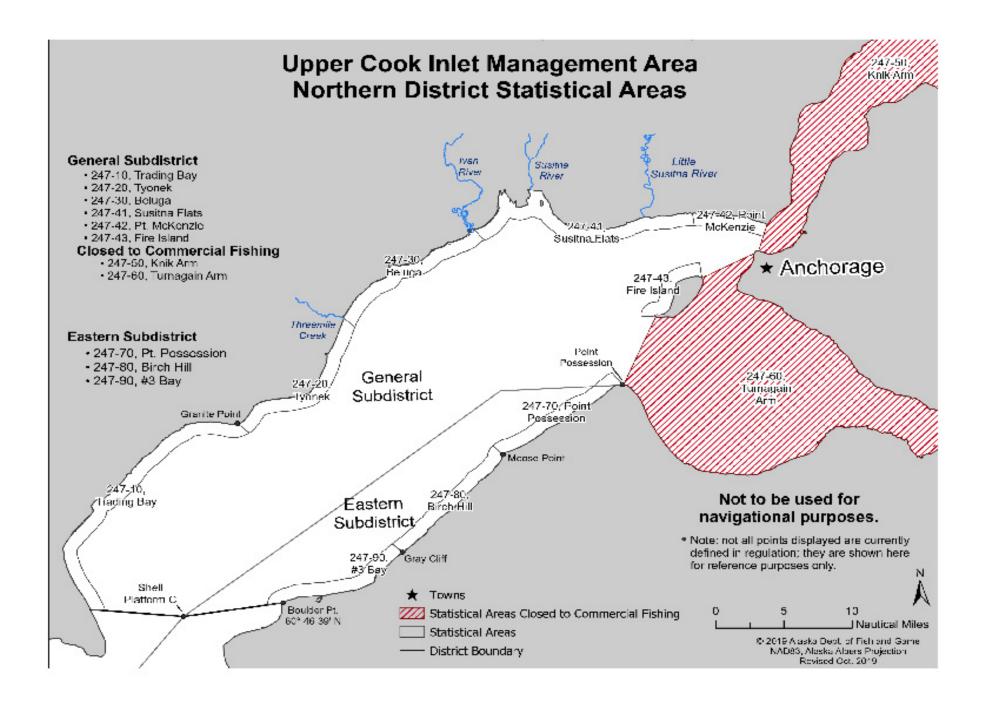


Figure 3. Map of Upper Cook Inlet drift gillnet commercial fishing statistical areas.

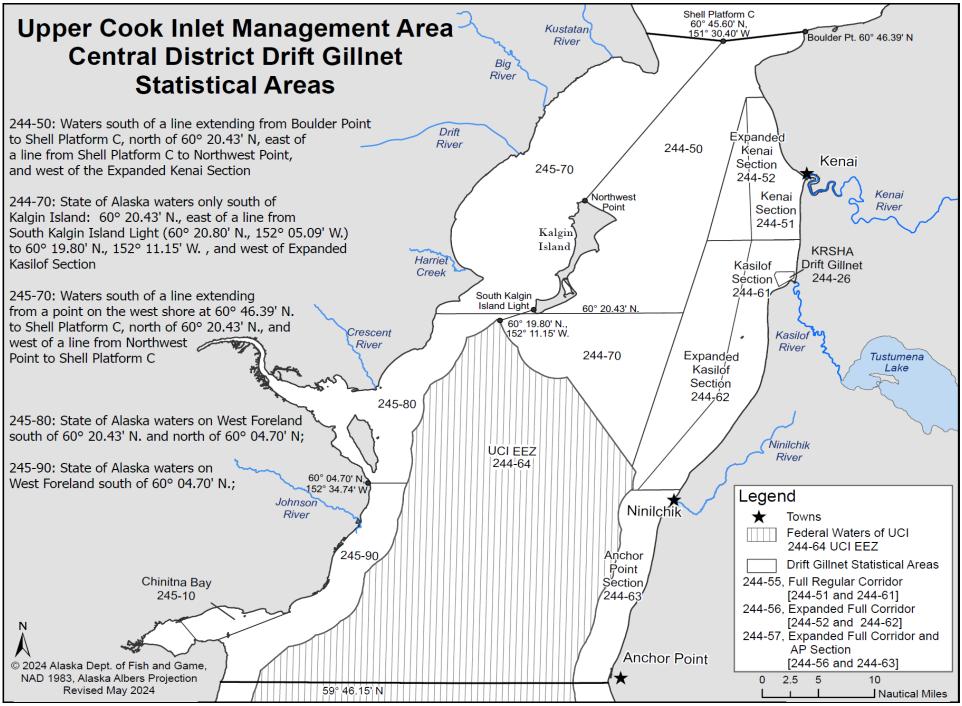
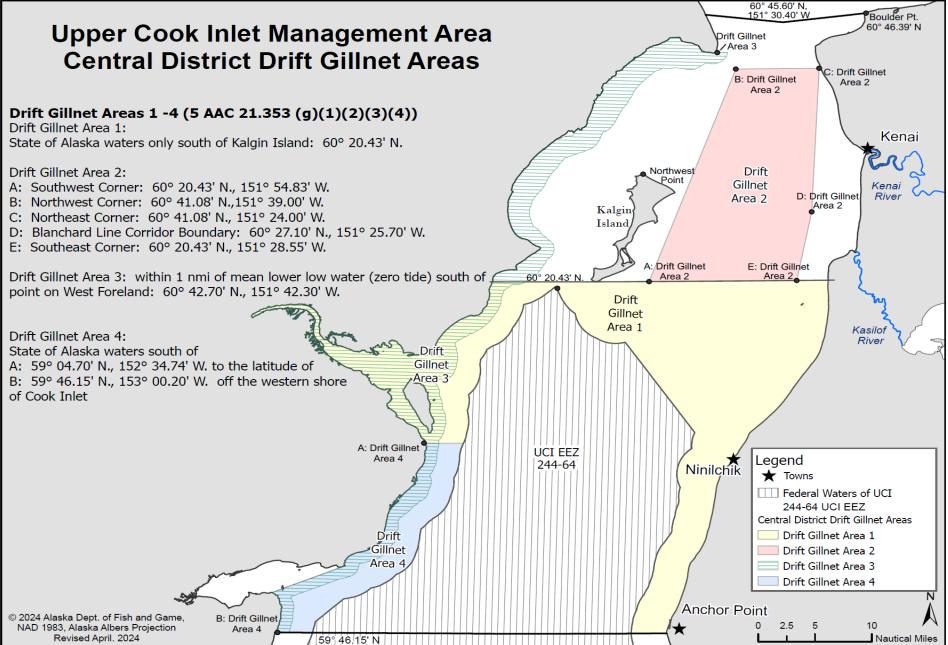


Figure 4 – Map of Upper Cook Inlet drift gillnet commercial fishing areas.



Selling Fish as a Catcher/Seller

Do you fit these criteria?

- I want to sell my catch directly to the public within the state
- I do not want to process my catch or have custom processing done for me.

Do you have the permits you need?

- You need a current CFEC Permit. For questions, call CFEC at 907-789-6150 CFEC permits can be renewed online at: https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/Leon/
- A Catcher/Seller Permit allows you to sell your unprocessed catch directly to the public. For questions call ADF&G at (907) 465-6131 You can apply online through the Department of Revenue: https://online-tax.alaska.gov/ATP/WebDoc/ You can also email or mail your application to ADF&G: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/license/fishing/pdfs/1100-539.pdf
- If you intend to transport your catch in Alaska or remove your fish from your vessel you may need a DEC processing permit. For questions DEC can be reached at: 907-269-7501.

What else will you need?

 Fish Tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within 7 days of landing. A Fish Ticket for each Landing not for each sale. Review instructions here:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/license/fishing/pdfs/adfg_ft_cover_letter_instructions.pdf

• If selling by the pound you must have a certified scale from DOT. Fishermen may share a certified scale.

Operations in Southeast should contact the Juneau office at (907)-365-1222

Operations north of Yakutat, on the Aleutian Chain and central Alaska should contact the Anchorage office at (907) 365-1222

Operations occurring in the Interior, Nome, Bethel, and outlying communities should contact the Fairbanks office at (907) 451-3134

• Contact your local ADF&G office prior to operating to obtain instructions on reporting and registration requirements in your fishery.

Please contact the Seafood Industry Technician at (907) 465-6131 or <u>dfg.seafood-coord@alaska.gov</u> if you have questions. A fish transporter works on behalf of the fisher. They can remove the catch from the vessel with an accompanying fish ticket and transport the catch to a buyer. Because the transporter never buys the catch, they do not need a code plate and will not put their processor code (beginning with T) on the code plate section of a ticket. Though they should handwrite this number on the margins of the ticket.

What can I transport:

Legally harvested Pacific cod, salmon, and herring. Any other fishery will need to use a tender for transportation.

How can I transport it:

Transporting legally harvested fish can occur by vessel, aircraft, vehicle, four wheeler, etc. Check with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for guidance on proper storage and transportation of seafood for human consumption.

Does a transporter vessel need to be registered with the Commercial fisheries entry commission?

A vessel used to transport fish under the Fish Transporter Permit must have a valid commercial fishing vessel license issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). This includes skiffs transporting salmon from set net sites if the CFEC permit holder is not present in the skiff at the time the fish is being transported. Vessel license application forms are available online at http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/ or by calling (907) 789-6160.

Does a transporter need to have a crewmember's license?

The fish transporter and any crewmembers working on fish transport vessels must have crewmember licenses. Crewmember licenses may be purchased online from ADF&G at https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/, through a licensed vendor, or by calling (907) 465-2376. Crewmember licenses are only required if transporting fish aboard a vessel. Float plane, airplane, vehicle and four wheeler operators do not require crewmember licenses.

Please contact the Seafood Industry Technician at (907) 465-6131 or <u>dfg.seafood-coord@alaska.gov</u> if you have questions.

Can a transporter mix fisher's catch?

ADF&G regulations do not require the catch to be kept separate, but DEC must be contacted and approve the transporters plan to store the fish prior to operation. DEC requirements may necessitate keeping catch from each fisher separate.

Do Fish tickets need to be fully filled out?

Fish transporters can transport fish with a partially filled out ticket, the processor code section will be stamped by the buyer of the catch, and an accurate weight will be written in at that time. Follow this <u>link</u> for instructions on properly filling out a fish ticket.

Does the fisher hiring the Fish Transporter need a Catcher-Seller Permit?

If the transporter plans to sell to the public, the fisher that hires them must be a catcher-seller to complete the code plate section of the fish ticket. If the transporter plans to sell to a licensed processor, then the fisher does not need to be a catcher-seller.

Fish transporters may only transport fish from a person who holds a CFEC commercial fishing permit for the species, area, and gear type used to harvest the fish being transported, or a landing permit issued by CFEC.

Does a Catcher-Seller need a Fish Transporter permit to transport their own catch?

A Catcher-Seller may transport their own catch without a fish transporter permit. In this scenario, a fish ticket must be filled out completely when the catch is removed from the harvesting vessel. A copy of the ticket must accompany the catch from then on. Catcher-Sellers must contact DEC to approve the method of transportation after the catch is removed from the harvesting vessel.

Do I need to carry an ID?

Yes, all fish transporters must be ready to show a picture ID and fish transporter approval letter when participating in transporting activities.

Does this permit expire?

Yes, all Fisheries Business Licenses and ADF&G only permits expire on December 31st of the license year.

Please contact the Seafood Industry Technician at (907) 465-6131 or <u>dfg.seafood-coord@alaska.gov</u> if you have questions.