

GENERAL REGULATIONS - PERSONAL USE FINFISH FISHERIES

Only Alaska residents, as defined on page 4, are eligible to participate in personal use fisheries.

Nonresidents may not participate in personal use fisheries. For example, nonresidents may not handle or clean fish harvested in a PU fishery and nonresidents may not handle any of the gear or operate a boat that is being used for personal use fishing, or have in their possession fish harvested in a personal use fishery.

“Personal use” is taking, fishing for, or possession of finfish, shellfish, or other fishery resources, by Alaska residents for personal use and not for sale or barter, with gill or dip net, seine, fish wheel, long line, or other means defined by the Board of Fisheries.

- **In all personal use fisheries, a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the resident angler is under 18):**
 - For resident anglers aged 18 to 59, a resident Alaska sport fishing license must be in possession of the person who is personal use fishing.
 - For Alaska resident anglers 60 or older and for Alaska resident disabled veterans, the ADF&G PID card or DV card must be in possession of the person who is personal use fishing.
- In some personal use fisheries, a permit is required in addition to the sport fishing license. Personal Use permits are available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/store.
- Salmon sport fishing bag and possession limits are in addition to those allowed under personal use fishing regulations.

Personal Use permits are available online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/

Permits are required for personal use fisheries at Kenai, Kasilof, Fish Creek, Susitna River and for the Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet fishery.

- You must have a current year’s Alaska resident sport fishing license (or the ADF&G Permanent ID or DV card) to obtain a permit.
- **Only one permit per household, not one permit per person. “Household” means a group of people domiciled in the same residence.**
- No permit is required for the China Poot Creek personal use fishery.
- The Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit, which applies to PU fisheries on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, the Susitna River and Fish Creek are only available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/.
- **Yearly harvest limits for Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit:** 25 salmon (except king salmon) for head of household and 10 for each additional member. See Kasilof gillnet and Kenai PU fisheries for exception to king salmon retention.
- Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet fishery permits are only available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/ from July 15 until the fishery closes. Contact the Homer office at 907-235-8191 for more information.
- **Harvest and participation must be reported online no later than August 15** through the ADF&G harvest reporting webpage at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/>.
- Permit holders who fail to report will be denied an Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon permit the following year.

You may not possess salmon taken under a personal use salmon fishing permit unless both tips of the tail fin have been immediately removed from the salmon.

- **When fishing from shore:** Immediately means before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.
- **When fishing from a boat:** Immediately means before concealing the salmon from plain view or before transporting the salmon from the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.
- This definition of immediately applies only to the personal use fishery and **DOES NOT** apply to recording king salmon (or other fish) taken in the sport fishery on the sport fishing license or harvest record.
- All fish harvested (salmon and flounder) must be recorded on the permit, in ink, **immediately** upon harvesting the fish.
- **Immediately means:** Before concealing the salmon from plain view or transporting the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water when fishing from shore or from the waters open to personal use fishing when fishing from a boat.



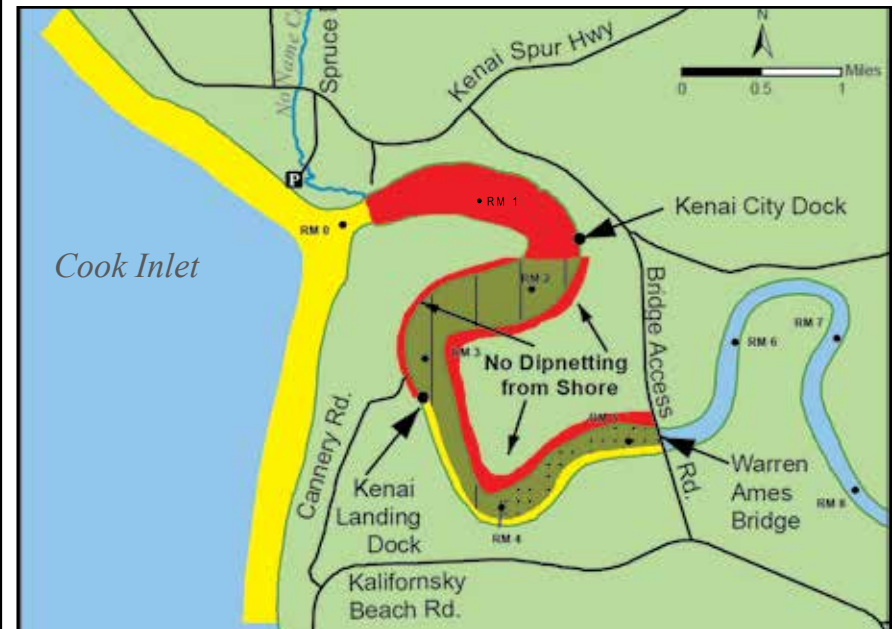
Kasilof River Gillnet Fishery

- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.
- **June 15–June 24:** Open to fishing. Fishing is only allowed between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. each day.
- Open area: Salt waters - about 1 mile north and south of the Kasilof River mouth, as defined by ADF&G markers. Fishing prohibited beyond 1 mile from the mean high water mark, and is also prohibited within the flowing waters or over the stream bed or channel of the Kasilof River at any stage of the tide.
- Any king salmon caught may be retained.
- Only one set gillnet per household may be fished. A set gillnet is a gillnet that has been intentionally set, staked, anchored, or otherwise fixed. Set gillnets may not exceed 10 fathoms (60 feet) in length, 6 inches in stretched mesh size, and 45 meshes in depth. A minimum distance of 100 feet must be maintained between nets. Each personal use fisherman must write his/her first initial, last name, and home address on any keg or buoy attached to a gillnet. A keg or buoy attached to a gillnet must also be inscribed with the name or the AK number of the vessel used to operate the gillnet.
- The permit holder (or a household member named on the permit) must be physically present at the fishing site at all times when the gear is being fished.
- Net sites are strictly on a “first come, first served” basis. The placement of signs, running lines, buoys, or dry nets on the beach in anticipation of incoming tides does not constitute any prior right to a net location. Sites are established only when the net actually enters the water.



Kenai River Dipnet Fishery

- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.
- **July 10–July 31:** Open to fishing. Fishing is only allowed between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m.
- Only one (1) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, and no more than 10 king salmon under 20 inches in length may be retained per household from the Kenai River dip net fishery.
- **Open area from shore:** From the commercial fishing markers located in Cook Inlet north and south of the river mouth, upstream to a line from No Name Creek to regulatory markers located on the south bank of the Kenai River and a section on the south bank from the Kenai Landing dock upstream to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge.
- **Open area for boats:** From ADF&G markers near the Kenai City Dock upstream to the downstream edge of the Warren Ames Bridge. Fish MAY NOT be taken from a boat powered by a two-stroke motor, other than direct fuel injection (DFI).



Kenai River boat and shore dipnet areas

	Open to dipnetting from shore		Open to dipnetting from a boat – No HP Limitation
	Closed to dipnetting		Open only to dipnetting from boat – 50 HP Limitation

Kasilof River Dipnet Fishery

- An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.
- **June 25–August 7:** Open to fishing. Fishing is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- NO RETENTION of king salmon is allowed.
- Open area: From a straight line across the river mouth between ADF&G markers posted on Cook Inlet outside of the mouth of the Kasilof River, to about 1 mile upstream to ADF&G markers.
- Fish may be taken from the bank or from a boat.



China Poot Creek Dipnet Fishery

- No permit is required, **but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is a resident of Alaska who is under the age of 18), or one who holds a valid PID or DV.**
- **July 1–August 7:** Sockeye salmon may be taken in China Poot Creek (on the south shore of Kachemak Bay) upstream of ADF&G markers.
- The bag and possession limits are 6 sockeye salmon per person per day. Only sockeye salmon may be retained.
- Both tips of the tail fin must be removed before you leave the waters open to PU fishing or before concealing the fish from plain view.
- When fishing from shore, this must be done before transporting the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to the waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon was removed from the water.

Kachemak Bay Coho Salmon Gillnet Fishery

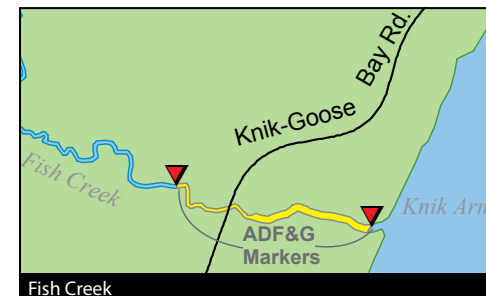
- **A permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.** Permits are available through the ADF&G website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/store from July 15 until the fishery closes. Contact the Homer ADF&G office at 907-235-8191 if you have questions.
- A household may have either one Upper Cook Inlet PU permit or one Kachemak Bay coho (silver) salmon gillnet permit each year - not both permits in the same year.
- The fishery will open 6 a.m. on Monday August 16, 2022 through 6 a.m. Wednesday August 18, 2022. The fishery will continue to operate in 48 hours periods, open from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Wednesday and Thursday through Saturday, until the fishery is closed by Emergency Order.
- The fishery will close by Emergency Order when 1,000 to 2,000 coho (silver) salmon have been harvested.
- Both tips of the tail fin must be removed.
- Permit holders are encouraged to report their catches on a daily basis by phone (907) 235-1738.
- Gear is a 35-fathom gillnet. Mesh size may not exceed 6 inches. Depth of the net may not exceed 45 meshes.
- The yearly harvest limit is 25 salmon for the permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member.
- No part of a set gillnet may be operated within 600 feet of another set gillnet. No person may operate more than one set gillnet. No part of a set gillnet may be set or operated more than 500 feet from the mean high water mark. No set gillnet may be set seaward of another set gillnet.
- The permit holder (or a household member named on the permit) must be physically present at the fishing site at all times when the gear is being fished.

Dipnet: Statewide Definition for all Fisheries

By regulation, a dipnet is defined as a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame. The maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed 5 feet. The depth of the bag must be at least one-half the greatest straight-line distance as measured through the net opening. No portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4½ inches. The frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand.

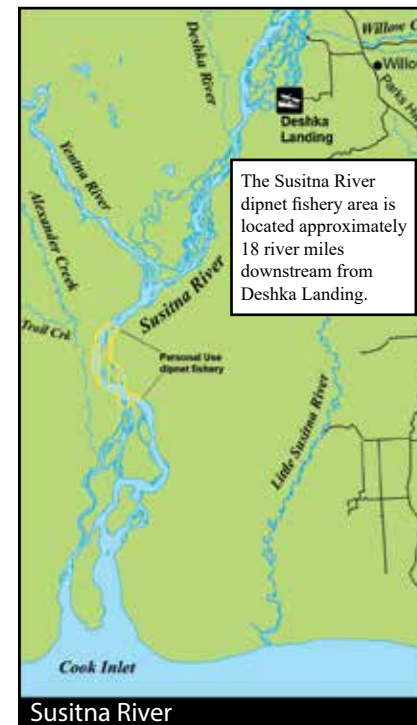
Fish Creek Dipnet Fishery

- Opened only by Emergency Order.
- **An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.**
- **NO RETENTION** of king salmon is allowed.
- Open area: Upstream from ADF&G markers posted on both sides of the terminus of Fish Creek to markers posted about ¼ mile upstream from Knik-Goose Bay Road. Dipnetting may occur from boat or shore.
- Fishing is only allowed between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. on days when this fishery is open.



Susitna River Dipnet Fishery

- **An Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit is required in addition to a sport fishing license.**
- This fishery is only accessible by boat or airplane.
- **July 10–July 31:** Open to fishing only on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day.
- **NO RETENTION** of king salmon is allowed.
- **Open area:** Between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 1 mile downstream from Susitna Station, downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located near the northern tip of Bell Island/ Alexander Creek cut off.
- Dipnetting from a boat is permitted in the area open to dipnetting.
- **Any northern pike caught must not be released back to the water alive.**



HERRING

- No permit is required, **but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is a resident of Alaska who is under the age of 18).**
- Fishing for herring is open year-round in Resurrection Bay and Cook Inlet salt waters south of Anchor Point. See map on page 74 for waters south of Anchor Point.
- **April 1–May 31:** Open season in salt waters north of Anchor Point.
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use herring.
- Herring may be taken for personal use with gillnets, dipnets, or cast nets. Gillnets may not be used to harvest herring in Turnagain Arm (salt waters east of a line from Point Possession to Point Campbell).
- In Cook Inlet north of Anchor Point and in the North Gulf Coast, herring gillnets may not exceed 20 feet in length, 2-inch stretch mesh. South of Anchor Point, gillnets may not exceed 50 feet in length, 2-inch stretch mesh.
- A gillnet must be attended at all times when it is being used to take fish.
- Cast nets may be used only in the Southern, Kamishak Bay, Barren Islands, Outer, and Eastern Districts. See map.
- A cast net is a circular net with a mesh size of no more than one and one-half inches and weights attached to the perimeter which, when thrown surrounds the fish and closes at the bottom when returned.



Prince William Sound:

- In Prince William Sound, herring may only be harvested with standard sport fishing gear. See “Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt” on page 7 for more information.



SMELT (HOOLIGAN)

- No permit is required, **but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is a resident of Alaska who is under the age of 18).**
- **April 1–May 31 (salt water):** Open to fishing.
- **April 1–June 15 (fresh water):** Open to fishing.
- Smelt may be taken by dipnet in any fresh or salt water.
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use smelt.
- See also “Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt,” on page 7.

Kenai River:

- **April 1–June 15:** Dipnets may be used to harvest smelt throughout the Kenai River.
- **April 1–June 15:** Small, handheld gillnets may be used to take smelt in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located at Cunningham Park.
- No gillnet may exceed 20 feet in length, 4 feet in depth, and 1½ inches mesh size. The net must be attended while it is in the water.
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use smelt.
- See also “Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt,” on page 7.

Hooligan Hotline

Call (907) 267-2505 for recorded inseason information on hooligan.