

GENERAL REGULATIONS - PERSONAL USE FINISH FISHERIES

ONLY ALASKA RESIDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN PERSONAL USE FISHERIES, AS DEFINED ON PAGE 4.

Nonresidents are not allowed to participate in personal use fisheries. Nonresidents may not handle, or clean fish harvested from personal use fisheries, nor handle any of the gear or operate a boat that is being used for personal use fishing.

'Personal use' refers to taking, fishing for, or possessing finfish, shellfish, or other fishery resources, by Alaska residents for personal use and not for sale or barter. This may be done with gill or dip nets, seines, fish wheels, long lines, or other means defined by the Board.



• A resident sport fishing license is required for all personal use fisheries and must be on you, unless the angler is under 18:

- Residents aged 18-59: Must have an Alaska resident sport fishing license.
- Residents 60 or older or resident disabled veterans: Must have an ADF&G PID or DV card.
- In some personal use fisheries, a permit is required, in addition to a resident sport fishing license.
- Permits are available through the ADF&G online store <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> or through the ADF&G mobile app.
- Salmon sport fishing bag and possession limits are in addition to personal use fishing limits.

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

- A current Alaska resident sport fishing license or a ADF&G PID or DV card is required to obtain a permit.
- **Only one permit per household, not one permit per person.** 'Household' means a group of people living under the same roof in the same residence.
- For fisheries that require a permit, it must be in your possession while fishing or transporting fish. Record all salmon on the permit **before leaving** the fishing site.
- A permit is not required for the China Poot Creek personal use fishery.
- Kachemak Bay coho salmon gillnet fishery permits are only available through the ADF&G online store at <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> from August 1 until the fishery closes. Contact the Homer office at (907) 235-8191 for more info.
- The Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit, which applies to personal use fisheries on the Kenai, Kasilof, and Susitna rivers, and Fish Creek are only available online at <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> or through the ADF&G mobile app.
 - **Yearly harvest limits for Upper Cook Inlet personal use permit:**
 - **Annual limit (no king salmon):** 25 salmon for the permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member.
 - See Kasilof gillnet and Kenai personal use fisheries for exception to king salmon retention.
 - **Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon harvest and participation must be reported ONLINE no later than August 31**, whether you went dipnetting or not, and even if you did not catch any fish, through the ADF&G online harvest reporting webpage at <https://harvest.adfg.alaska.gov> or through the ADF&G mobile app.
 - Failure to report as required by 5 AAC 77.015(c), anglers will be denied an Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon permit the following year and may be subject to a \$200 fine.



A person may not possess salmon taken under a personal use salmon fishing permit unless both tips of the tail fin have been immediately removed, and all salmon are recorded on the permit.

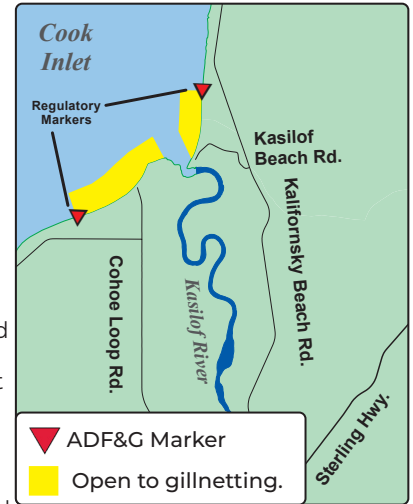
- Both tips of the tail fin must be clipped immediately after harvesting the fish.
- All harvested fish must be recorded on the permit immediately after harvesting the fish.
- Immediately applies only to personal use fisheries and does not apply to sport fishing license or harvest record requirements for king salmon or other fish.
 - **When fishing from shore:** Immediately means before the salmon is concealed from view or transported from the shoreline or streambank where it was caught.
 - **When fishing from a boat:** Immediately means before the salmon is concealed from view or transported from the waters where it was caught.

KASILOF RIVER GILLNET FISHERY

- An Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit is required, in addition to a resident sport fishing license. **Check for emergency orders.**
- **EO June 20-June 24:** Open to gillnet fishing. Fishing is only allowed from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day.

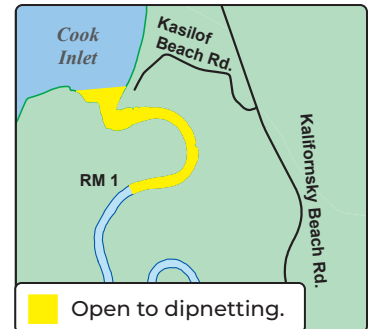
- **Open Area:** Salt waters about 1 mile north and south of the Kasilof River mouth, as defined by ADF&G markers. **Gillnetting is prohibited beyond 1 mile from the mean high water mark, and is also prohibited within the flowing waters or over the stream bed or channel of the Kasilof River at any stage 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, 4¾ inches in stretched mesh size, and 29 inches in depth. A minimum distance of 100 feet must be maintained between nets. Each personal use fisherman must write their 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.



KASILOF RIVER DIPNET FISHERY

- An Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit is required, in addition to a resident sport fishing license. **Check for emergency orders.**
- **June 25-August 7:** Open to personal use fishing. Fishing is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- **No retention of king salmon is allowed.** All king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **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.
- Fishing may be taken from the bank or from a boat.
- There are no motor restrictions in the Kasilof River personal use area during the Kasilof personal use dates.

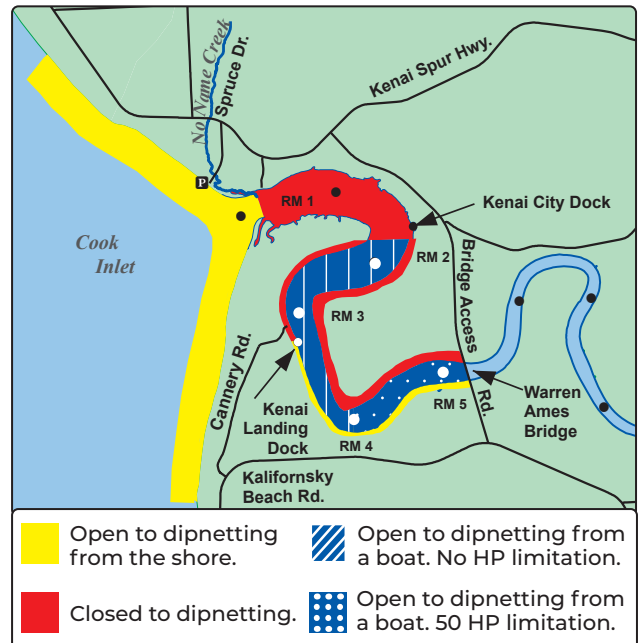


KENAI RIVER DIPNET FISHERY

- An Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit is required, in addition to a resident sport fishing license. **Check for emergency orders.**
- **July 10-July 31:** Open to personal use fishing. Fishing is only allowed from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day.
- **No retention of king salmon is allowed.** All king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
- **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).**

Dip net specifications for personal use fisheries:

A dip net is defined as a bag-shaped net supported by a rigid frame on all sides. The maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the frame, measured through the net opening, cannot exceed 5 feet. The depth of the bag must be at least 1/2 the greatest straight-line distance through the net opening. The bag's webbing must not exceed a stretched measurement of 4½ inches. The frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and operated by hand.



CHINA POOT DIPNET FISHERY

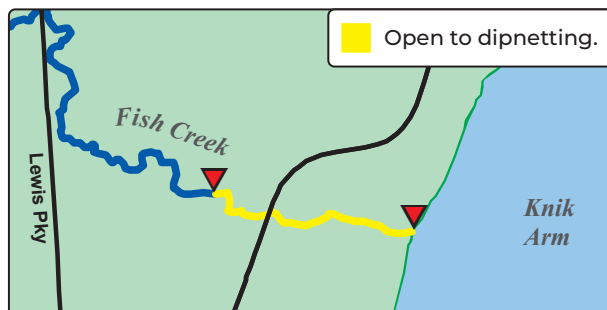
- No permit is required, but a resident sport fishing license is required. See pages 4-5 for more info.
- **June 15-August 15:** Sockeye salmon may be taken in China Poot Creek (on the south shore of Kachemak Bay) upstream of ADF&G markers.
- **Sockeye salmon:** 6 per day, 6 in possession, per person, per day. Only sockeye salmon may be kept.
- Both tips of the tail fin must be clipped before you leave the waters open to personal use fishing or before concealing the fish from plain view.

KACHEMAK BAY COHO SALMON GILLNET FISHERY

- **Permit:**
 - A permit is required, in addition to a sport fishing license. Permits are available through the ADF&G online store at <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov> from **August 1** until the fishery closes.
 - A household may have either **ONE Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use** or **ONE Kachemak Bay Coho Salmon Gillnet** permit each year. Not both permits in the same year.
 - 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.
- **Annual limit:**
 - 25 salmon for the permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member.
 - Both tips of the tail fin must be removed before you leave the waters open to personal use fishing or before concealing the fish from plain view.
- **Gear:**
 - Gear is a 35 fathom gillnet. Mesh size may not exceed 6 inches. Depth of the net may not exceed 45 meshes.
 - 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.
- **Fishing Period:**
 - The first period of the fishery will open at 6 a.m. on **Monday, August 17, 2026.**
 - The fishery will continue to operate in 48 hours periods, open from 6 a.m. Monday through 6 a.m. Wednesday, and 6 a.m. Thursday through 6 a.m. Saturday, until the fishery is closed by emergency order or closes by the regulation date which is **September 14.**
 - The fishery will close by an emergency order when a final harvest of 1,000 to 2,000 coho salmon is anticipated.
- **Reporting:**
 - Permit holders are encouraged to call (907) 235-1738 and report their catches daily.
 - Permit holders are required to report online at <https://harvest.adfg.alaska.gov> when the fishery closes or by turning in their physical harvest report to the ADF&G Homer office.
 - If you have questions, contact the Homer ADF&G office at (907) 235-8191.

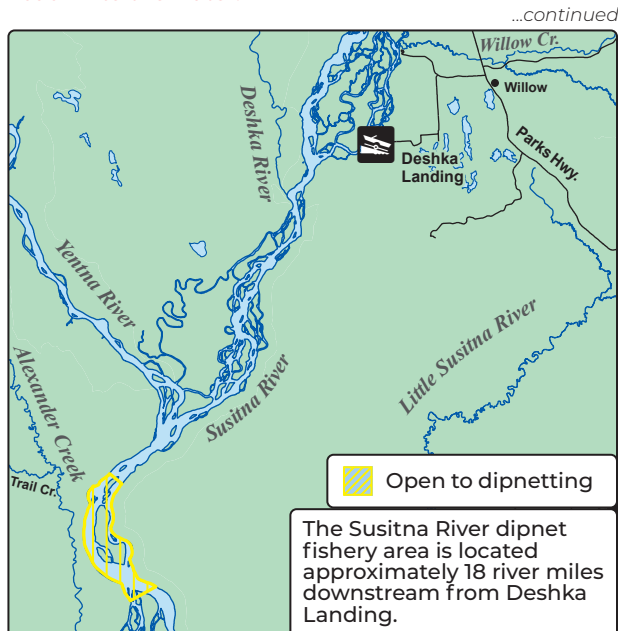
FISH CREEK DIPNET FISHERY

- **Opened ONLY by Emergency Order.**
- An Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use permit is required in addition to a resident 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 a boat or the shore.
- Personal use fishing is only allowed from 6 a.m. to 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 resident sport fishing license.
- This fishery is only accessible by boat or airplane.
- **July 10-July 31:** Only open to personal use fishing on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day.
- **No retention of king salmon is allowed.**
- **Open Area:** Between the 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.
- **Dipnetting in and around the mouth of Anderson Creek is prohibited.**
- **Any northern pike caught must not be released live back into the water.**



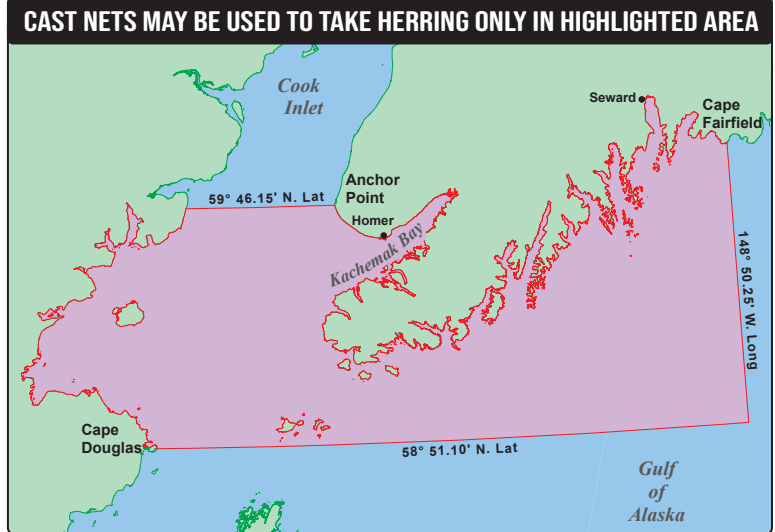
HERRING FISHERY

- **No permit is required, but a resident sport fishing license is required. See pages 4-5 for more info.**
- There is no bag or possession limit for personal use herring.
- Herring may be taken for personal use and in some areas with dipnets, cast nets, or gillnets. See below for more info.



COOK INLET AND NORTH GULF COAST:

- **In Turnagain Arm salt waters east of a line from Point Possession to Point Campbell:**
 - **Gillnets may not be used to harvest herring.**
- **In Cook Inlet north of Anchor Point and in the North Gulf Coast including Resurrection Bay:**
 - 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 being used to take fish.
- **In Cook Inlet south of Anchor Point to the North Gulf Coast salt waters west of Cape Fairfield:**
 - Cast nets may only be used. See map on the right. See cast net definition on page 94.
- **Saltwaters north of Anchor Point:**
 - **April 1-May 31:** Open to personal use fishing for herring.
 - Herring may be taken for personal use with gillnets or dipnets.
- **Resurrection Bay and Cook Inlet salt waters south of Anchor Point:**
 - Open year-round to personal use fishing for herring.



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 info.

HOOLOGAN (SMELT) FISHERY

COOK INLET AND NORTH GULF COAST:

- **No permit is required, but a resident sport fishing license is required. See pages 4-5 for more info.**
- Hooligan may be taken by dipnet in any fresh or saltwater.
- **April 1-May 31 (saltwater):** Open to personal use fishing.
- **April 1-June 15 (freshwater):** Open to personal use fishing.
- There is no bag or possession limits for personal use hooligan.
- See "Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt" on page 7.



KENAI RIVER:

- **No permit is required, but a resident sport fishing license is required. See pages 4-5 for more info.**
- **April 1-June 15:** Dipnets may be used to harvest hooligan throughout the Kenai River.
- **April 1-June 15 (freshwater):**
 - **From the Kenai River mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located at Cunningham Park Small:**
 - Drift gillnets may be used to take hooligan.
 - No drift gillnet may exceed 20 feet in length, 4 feet in depth, and 1½ inches mesh size. The drift gillnet must be attended while it is in the water.
 - There is no bag or possession limit for personal use hooligan.
 - See "Sport Fishing Gear for Herring and Smelt" on page 7.

HOOLOGAN HOTLINE

FOR THE LATEST IN-SEASON HOOLOGAN FISHING REPORT CALL THE HOOLOGAN HOTLINE AT (907) 267-2505.

This fishing report hotline includes hooligan fishing reports for the Anchorage, Palmer, and Soldotna areas.