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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: May 13, 2022

Time: 4:01 p.m.

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Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #2

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-02-22

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area. Please refer to Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #1 for the start dates of the front-end closure in subsistence sections 1-5 (Mouth of Kuskokwim River to Headwaters).

Subsistence fishing with set gillnets in the Kuskokwim River mainstem will be open during the following times:

Subsistence Sections 1-3 (Yukon Delta Refuge boundary at mouth of the Kuskokwim River to Yukon Delta Refuge boundary near Aniak):

- Open with 6-inch or less mesh size set gillnets from **6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1**. Set gillnets may not exceed 60 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth and may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
- Open with 6-inch or less mesh size set gillnets from **6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4**. Set gillnets may not exceed 60 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth and may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
- Open with 6-inch or less mesh size set gillnets from **6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8**. Set gillnets may not exceed 60 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth and may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.

According to 5 AAC 07.365 *Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan* at least one set gillnet fishing period per week will be provided during the front-end closure. These set gillnet fishing periods are directed at non-salmon species and provided during the front-end closure to enable all residents to harvest fresh fish. Being short, bank attached set gillnets, these fishing periods are intended to minimize king salmon harvest as much as possible. It is understood that some minor king salmon harvest will occur. Given the king salmon forecast and historical harvest estimates from previous years set gillnet fishing periods (e.g., 720 king salmon were harvested in the three 2021 set gillnet periods) the king harvest from these set gillnet fishing periods will be minimal and sustainable for all users under the State's subsistence regulations. We do not believe this opportunity under State subsistence fishing regulations will negatively impact the ability of federally qualified subsistence users from meeting their needs during these fishing periods if they so choose to participate in the fishery. These three fishing periods will allow those individuals who have been displaced to the urban areas of Alaska for educational, social, health or other reasons to practice their traditional and cultural subsistence way of life that is closely tied to the Kuskokwim River.

A reminder to subsistence fishermen: All subsistence gillnets must have a keg or buoy attached to the net with the fisherman's first initial, last name and an address clearly written on it.

As previously announced subsistence fishing with hook and line, fish wheels equipped with live boxes or chutes, beach seines, and dip nets is currently allowed until further notice though any Chinook salmon caught with these gear types must be returned immediately to the water alive.

As a reminder the next meeting of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., by teleconference. This meeting is open to the public. Please call 1-800-315-6338 passcode: 58756#, to attend via teleconference.

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>), local radio stations, and Kuskokwim River Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/KuskoRiverFishingADFG/>). Advisory Announcements will be faxed to area villages. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

For information regarding federal subsistence fishing regulations and any announcements, please contact the Yukon Delta NWR at (907) 543-3151 or (907) 543-1002.

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:

ADF&G: Nicholas Smith 907-267-2379 or Ross Renick 907-267-2303

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