

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

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Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 29, 2022

Time: 5:30 p.m.

CONTACT: Nick Smith and Ross Renick

**Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists
(907) 543-2709**

Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #5

Emergency Order #3-S-WR-05-22

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

Subsistence Sections 4-5 (Yukon Delta Refuge boundary near Aniak to Headwaters of Kuskokwim River):

The following subsistence fishing restrictions will go into effect for the conservation of chum salmon within subsistence sections 4 and 5 beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1, 2022, until further notice:

- **Subsistence fishing with fish wheels will be allowed until further notice.** Fish wheels are required to have a live box with no less than 45 cubic feet of water and must be checked at least every 12 hours. Any chum salmon caught must be returned alive to the water.
- **Subsistence fishing with beach seines will be allowed until further notice.** Any chum salmon caught in a beach seine must be returned immediately to the water alive.

As previously announced:

- Subsistence fishing is open with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets (set or drift), not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth from the upriver boundary of the Aniak Box to the headwaters.
- King, sockeye, and coho salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line from the upriver boundary of the Aniak Box to the headwaters.
- Aniak Box: 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 (upriver boundary of Aniak Box) will remain closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets until further notice. Subsistence fishing with hook and line, fish wheels equipped with a live box or chute, beach seines and dip nets is allowed, but all king salmon caught must be returned to the water alive.
- Subsistence fishing with gillnets and harvest of king salmon in selective gears will continue to be closed in the Aniak River drainage to the ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

As of June 28, the Bethel test fishery cumulative CPUE for chum salmon was 185 and total chum salmon passage at the sonar on June 27 was 3,400 fish. Bethel test fishery CPUE is the third lowest since 2008 and sonar passage is the second lowest since 2018. In 2021, 390 chum salmon were harvested between Aniak and the headwaters communities.

As a reminder the next meeting of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 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 907-543-2709 or Ross Renick 907-543-2331

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