

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Aaron Poetter, Area Management Biologist
Aaron Tiernan, Assistant Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: (907) 543-2433
Toll free: (855) 933-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021

U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ken Stahlnecker, Refuge Manager
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 346
Bethel, AK 99559
Toll Free: (800) 621-5804
Phone: (907) 543-3151
Fax (907) 543-4413

Date Issued: May 17, 2017
Time: 5:30 p.m.

**Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #2
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-01-17**

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

Subsistence fishing with gillnets in the Kuskokwim River will be closed during the following times and areas.

- Beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 20, 2017, the Kuskokwim River Drainage from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to ADF&G markers approximately one-half mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth;
- Beginning 12:01 a.m. Thursday, May 25, 2017, from the ADF&G markers approximately one-half mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth to the Yukon Delta Refuge boundary near Aniak;
- Beginning 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 1, 2017, from the Yukon Delta Refuge boundary near Aniak to the ADF&G regulatory markers near the Holitna River mouth; and
- Beginning 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 4, 2017, upstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers located near the Holitna River mouth to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.

The following subsistence fishing restrictions and tributary gillnet fishing closures will also go into effect beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 20, 2017 until further notice:

- The Kwethluk River drainage including its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough and downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream mouth of the slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G regulatory markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

Subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook salmon will close until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught must be returned alive to the water.

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, must be checked at least every 6 hours. Fish wheels may be equipped with a chute and must be closely attended while in operation. All Chinook salmon must be returned alive to the water.

Subsistence fishing with dip nets and beach seines is currently allowed until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught in a dip net or beach seine must be returned immediately to the water alive.

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>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

For additional information concerning this news release:

ADF&G: Aaron Poetter in Anchorage 907-267-2303 or Aaron Tiernan 907-267-2379

USFWS: Ken Stahlnecker in Bethel 907-543-3151

-end-