

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



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P.O. Box 1467  
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Date Issued: June 30, 2017  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

**2017 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #9  
Emergency Order: #3-S-WR-09-17**

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

**Federal Special Action**

Management of subsistence Chinook salmon fishery from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak (defined as the Federal Conservation Unit) will be under authority of the Federal Inseason Manager beginning June 12. For information regarding subsistence fishing within this area please contact Ken Stahlnecker at 907-543-3151.

**From the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak up to the Holitna River mouth: Section 4**

**Subsistence fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, not to exceed 25 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth, will be allowed for approximately 12 hours from 12:01 p.m. until 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 3, 2017.**

**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 (Figure 1) will be closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets from 12:01p.m. until 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 3, 2017.**

The numbers of chum and sockeye salmon at the Bethel Test Fishery substantially increased beginning June 27 and abundance continues to increase daily. With our knowledge of swim speeds we anticipate those fish arriving in the Aniak area Sunday or Monday. The placement of these closed waters is due to the high catch rates of Chinook salmon in the Aniak Test Fishery in recent days and to mitigate the harvest of Chinook salmon in the area.

As Previously Announced

- Subsistence fishing with gillnets remains closed in the Aniak River.
- Subsistence fishing with the use of live release gear types such as hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels equipped with live boxes or chutes, and beach seines remains open until further notice. In Section 4, any Chinook salmon caught with these gear types must be returned immediately to the water alive.
- Subsistence fishing in Section 5 (mouth of the Holitna River to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River) remains open to the use of 6-inch or less mesh gillnets not to exceed 25 fathoms in length until further notice.

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.

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Figure 1.- Closed waters for July 3 opener.