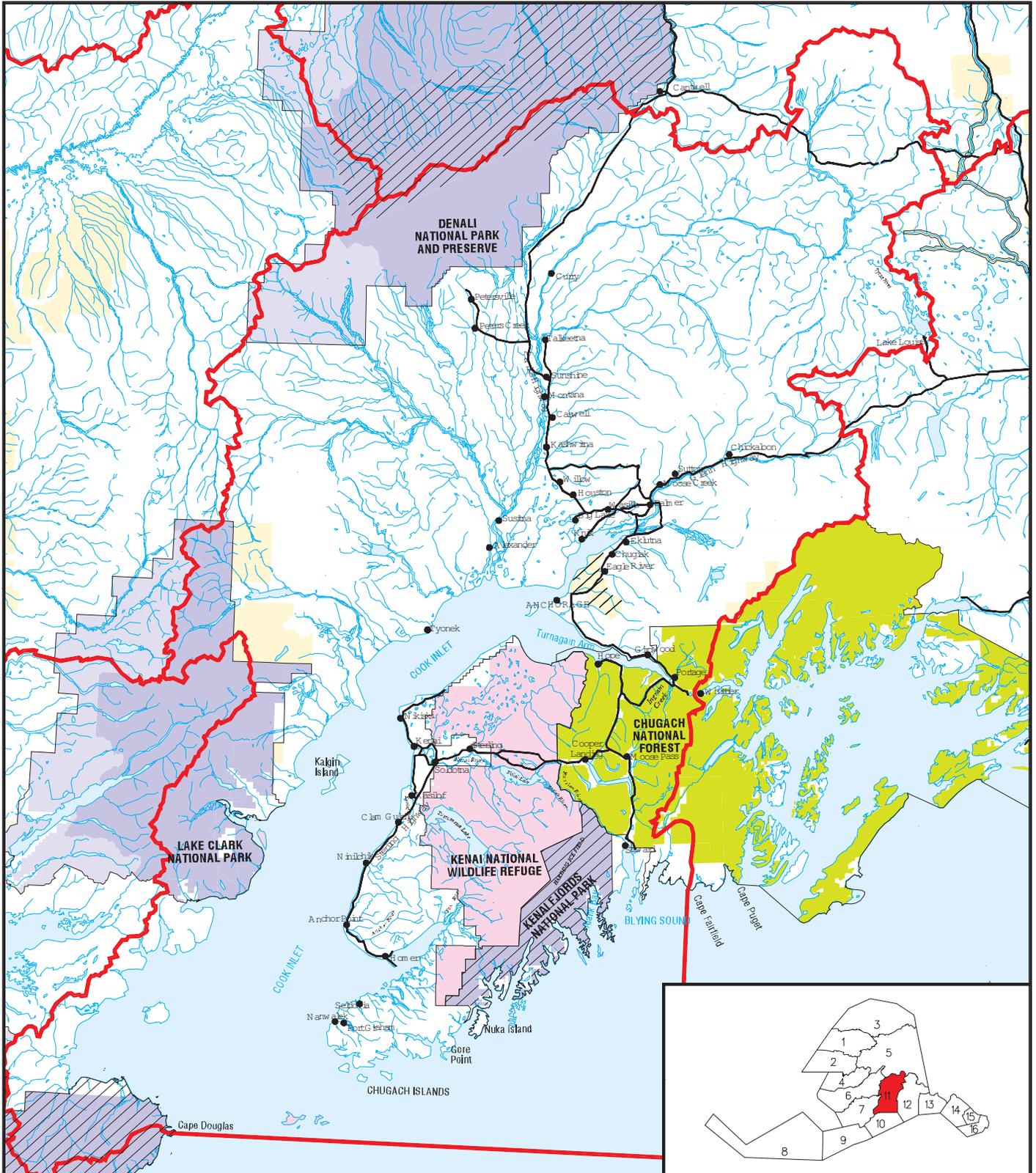


Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing



Cook Inlet Area

Map 11
Cook Inlet
Area

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| FWS Administered Land | USFS Administered Land |
| NPS Administered Parks | Closed to Subsistence |
| NPS Administered Preserves | Roads |
| BLM Administered Land | Area Boundary |
| BLM Non-navigable Waters Only | Federal Boundary |

Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing

The Cook Inlet Area includes all waters of Alaska enclosed by a line extending east from Cape Douglas (58°51.10'N. Lat.) and a line extending south from Cape Fairfield (148°50.25'W. Long.). These regulations apply on waters within or adjacent to the Denali National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and Chugach National Forest, and exclude marine waters. General domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management are open to fishing only on non-navigable waters.

Kenai Peninsula District: The Kenai Peninsula District consists of all freshwater drainages of the Kenai Peninsula west of a line from Cape Fairfield (59° 56.58' N. lat., 148° 50.25' W. long.) to the west bank of the mouth of Ingram Creek, excluding Ingram Creek. [See Map 11 on previous page.]

Species / Customary and Traditional Use Determinations	Harvest Limits	Open Season
Cook Inlet Area		
Smelt—No permit required.		
• <i>Rural residents of the Cook Inlet Area.</i>	No limit	April 1–June 15 taken with dip nets in freshwater.
Fish Other Than Salmon, Trout, Dolly Varden/Char, Smelt, Grayling, and Burbot.		
• <i>Rural residents of the Cook Inlet Area.</i>	No limit	Year round
Remainder of the Cook Inlet Area		
Salmon, Trout, Dolly Varden/Char, Smelt, Grayling, and Burbot.		
• <i>All rural residents.</i>	No limit	Year round
Kenai Peninsula District, waters north of and including the Kenai River drainage within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the Chugach National Forest		
All Fish — Federal subsistence fishing permit required for Salmon, Trout, and Dolly Varden/Char.		
• <i>Residents of the communities of Cooper Landing, Hope and Ninilchik.</i>	Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) in effect at the time you are fishing, unless otherwise modified in this section.	
Waters within the Kasilof River drainage within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge		
All Fish — Federal subsistence fishing permit required for Salmon, Trout, and Dolly Varden/Char.		
• <i>Residents of the community of Ninilchik.</i>	Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) in effect at the time you are fishing, unless otherwise modified in this section.	
Waters within Lake Clark National Park draining into and including that portion of Tuxedni Bay within the Park		
Salmon—Federal subsistence fishing permit required.		
• <i>Residents of the Tuxedni Bay area.</i>	Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means are the same as for the taking of those species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57) in effect at the time you are fishing, unless otherwise modified in this section.	

Special Provisions

- ◆ You may take fish by gear listed in this part unless restricted. For all fish that must be marked and recorded on a permit in this section, they must be marked and recorded prior to leaving the fishing site. The fishing site includes the particular Federal public waters and/or adjacent shoreline from which the fish were harvested.
- ◆ Fishing gear for the taking of salmon, trout, Dolly Varden/char is specified on the Federal subsistence fishing permit.

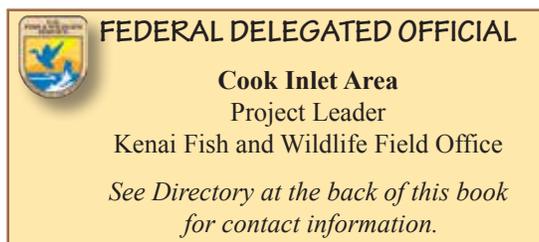
- ◆ Gillnets may not be used in freshwater, except for taking whitefish in the Tyone River drainage and as otherwise provided for in the Cook Inlet Area.
- ◆ No Federal open season for grayling and burbot.

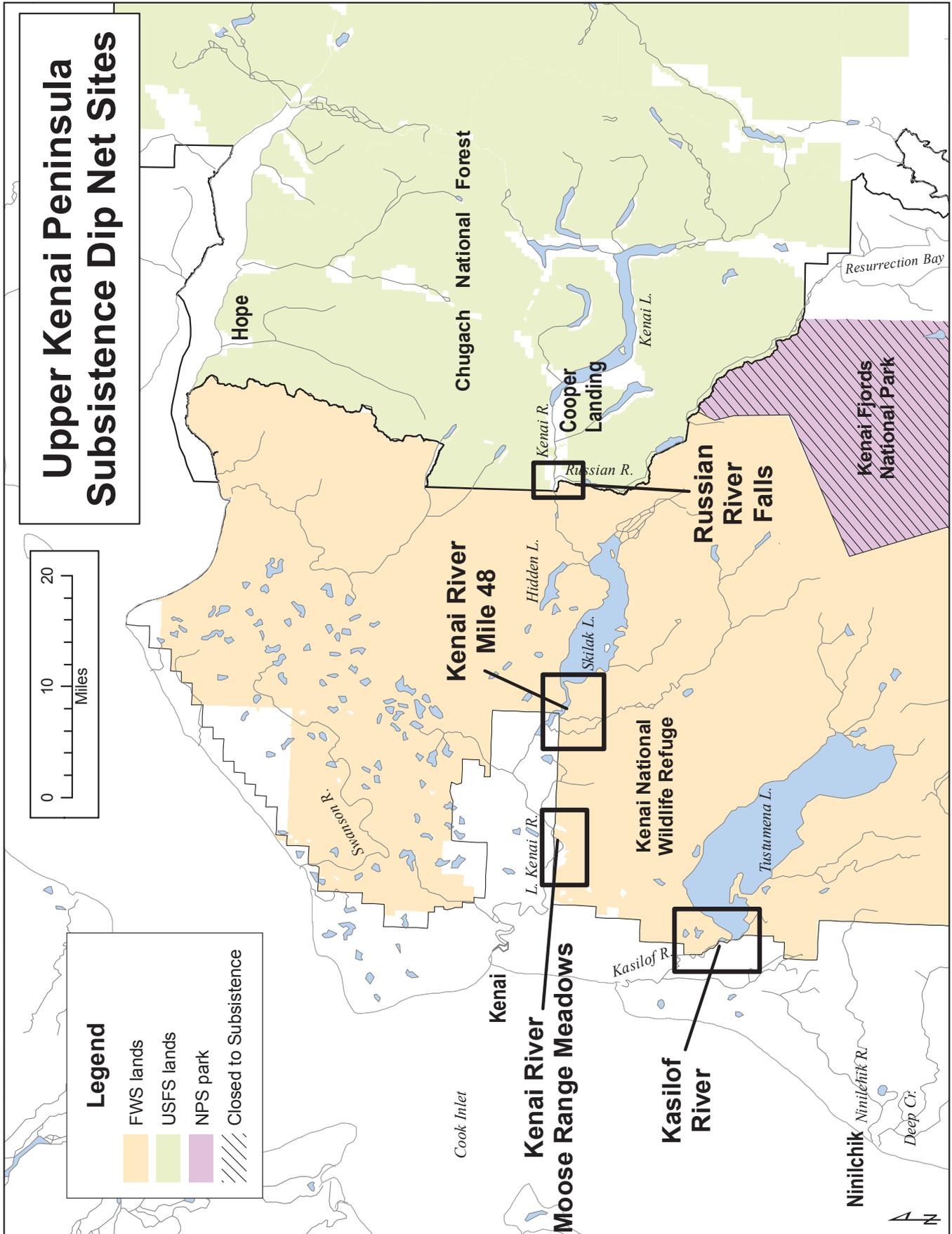
Kenai Peninsula — Special Provisions

- ◆ All persons must have a valid Federal subsistence fishing permit in their possession while taking, attempting to take, or transporting subsistence-caught salmon, trout, and Dolly Varden/char. You may apply for your permit(s) by calling the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office at 1-800-822-6550. Permits must be returned to the Federal fisheries manager by the due date listed on the permit.
- ◆ Before transporting fish from the fishing site, all retained fish must be recorded on the permit and marked by removing the dorsal fin (See Fin Identification, page 19).
- ◆ You may not accumulate any harvest limits for a particular species under Federal subsistence regulations with any other harvest limits specified in State regulations for that species.
- ◆ All fish harvested as part of the household limit in the dip net fishery in the Kenai River and the dip net and/or fish wheel fishery in the Kasilof River must be reported to the in-season manager within 72 hours of leaving the fishing site.
- ◆ No Federal open season for grayling and burbot.

Kenai River Salmon — Dip Net

- ◆ Only residents of Hope, Cooper Landing and Ninilchik may harvest salmon from the Kenai River under Federal subsistence regulations.
- ◆ Only residents of Hope, Cooper Landing, and Ninilchik may retain resident species including lake trout, Rainbow Trout, and Dolly Varden/Arctic Char harvested incidentally from the Kenai River while salmon fishing under Federal subsistence regulations. Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden 18 inches or longer taken in the Kenai River dip net fishery must be released.
- ◆ Fishing for Sockeye, Chinook, Coho, or Pink Salmon will close by Special Action prior to regulatory end dates if the annual total harvest limit for that species is reached or for other reasons as required.
- ◆ Salmon taken in the Kenai River dip net fishery by Ninilchik households will be included as part of those households' annual limits for the Kasilof River.
- ◆ All salmon, Rainbow Trout, and Dolly Varden retained by residents of Hope, Cooper Landing, and Ninilchik as part of the household limit in the dip net fishery in the Kenai River must be reported within 72 hours to the Federal fisheries manager upon leaving the fishing location, and permits must be returned to the manager by the due date listed on the permit. Call (907) 262-9863 or (800) 822-6550 to report your harvest.
- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return the completed harvest permit by the due date listed on the permit may result in issuance of a violation notice and will make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.





Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing

Location: Russian River Falls, Kenai River mile 48, and Moose Range Meadows (only from a boat). For the Russian River fishing site, only Sockeye Salmon may be harvested.

Note: Rod and reel may also be used to harvest fish under household possession limits in the three dip netting locations.

Species	Season	Household Limit/ Each Additional Household Member	Annual Total Harvest Limit
Late-run Chinook ¹	July 16–Sept. 30	10/2	1,000
Sockeye	June 15–Aug. 15	25/5	4,000
Coho ¹	July 16–Sept. 30	20/5	3,000
Pink ¹	July 16–Sept. 30	15/5	2,000
Other species	Mandatory release of Rainbow Trout/steelhead and Dolly Varden/Arctic Char 18 inches or longer.		

¹ For the Russian River fishing site, only Sockeye Salmon may be retained.

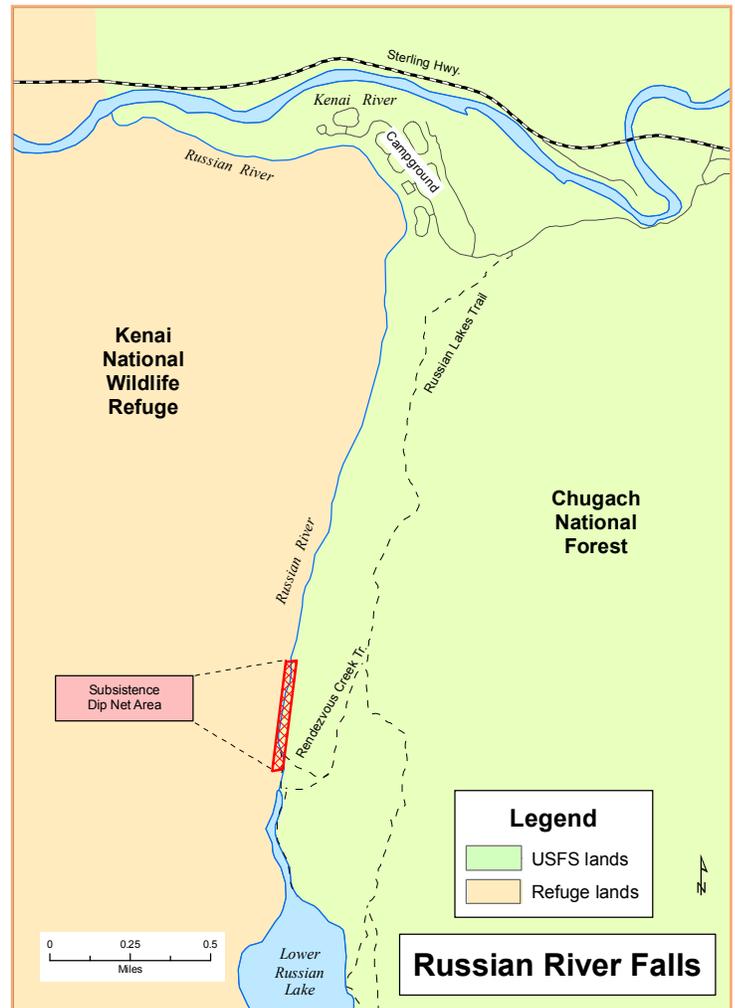
Dip Netting Locations

Russian River Falls

Dip netting will be allowed from a Federal regulatory marker near the upstream end of the fish ladder at Russian River Falls, downstream to a Federal regulatory marker approximately 600 yards below Russian River Falls.

Additional Provisions for the Russian River

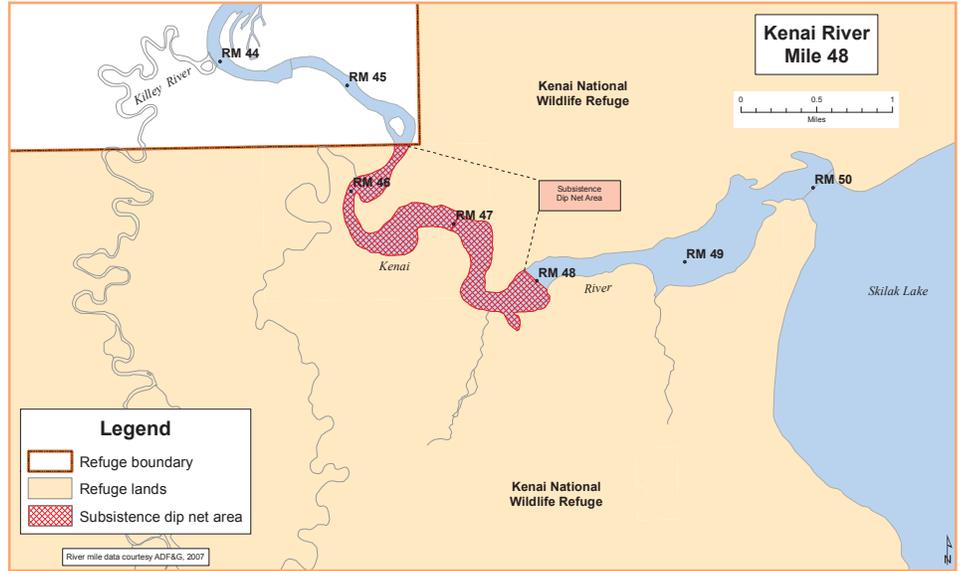
- ◆ Only Sockeye Salmon may be harvested.
- ◆ Season dates are: June 15–August 15
- ◆ To prevent the conditioning of bears to human food sources, food, beverages, and odoriferous refuse must be in possession or within immediate grasp (within 3 feet) at all times.
- ◆ Use of the Russian River Falls viewing platforms is prohibited for dip net fishery activities, such as fishing, transporting fish, and cleaning fish.
- ◆ Any additions or changes to regulations for the Russian River Area will be posted on the kiosk at the Russian River Falls trailhead.
- ◆ Residents using rod and reel gear at this fishery site may not fish with bait at any time.



Kenai River Mile 48

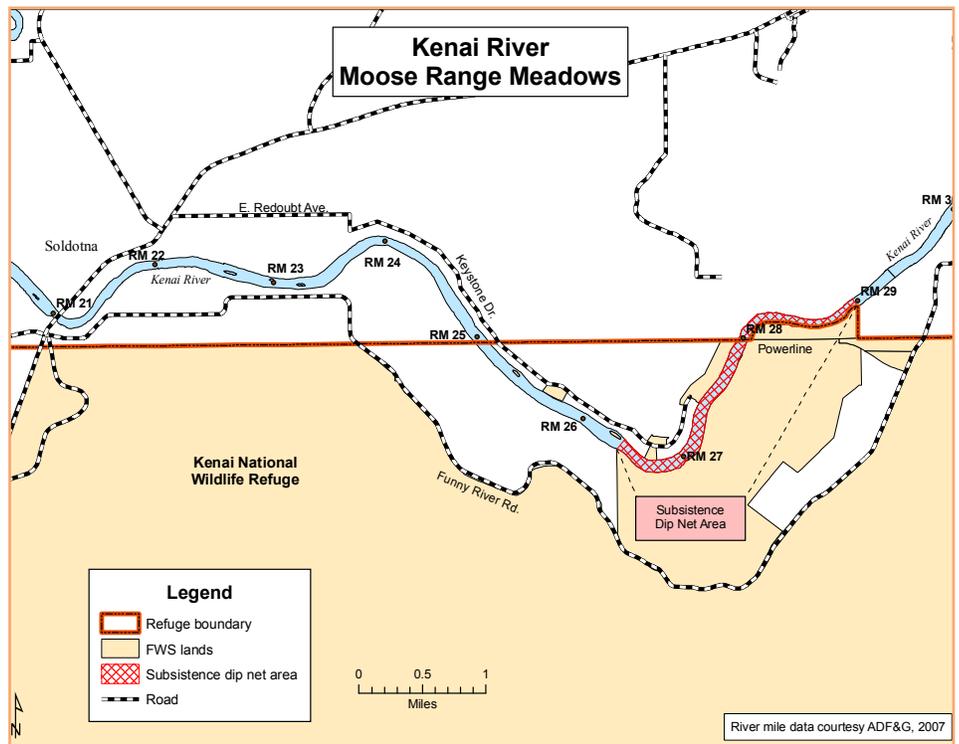
Dip netting will be allowed, while either standing in the river or from a boat, from Federal regulatory markers on both banks of the Kenai River at about River Mile 48 (approximately 2 miles below the outlet of Skilak Lake) downstream approximately 2.5 miles to a marker on the Kenai River at about River Mile 45.5. Eligible residents may also use a rod and reel at this fishing site with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks from June 15 through August 31.

Season dates are: June 15–August 15 for Sockeye Salmon. Late run Chinook, Pink, and Coho Salmon dates are: July 16–September 30.



Kenai River Moose Range Meadows

Dip netting will be allowed only from a boat, from a Federal regulatory marker on the bank of the Kenai River at about River Mile 29, downstream approximately 2.5 miles to a marker at about River Mile 26.5. Eligible residents may also use a rod and reel at this fishing site with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks from June 15 through August 31. Season dates are: June 15 - August 15 for Sockeye Salmon. Late run Chinook, Coho, and Pink Salmon July 16 - September 30.



Kenai River Salmon — Rod and Reel

Location: All open Federal public waters in the Kenai River drainage

Seasons, areas (including seasonal river bank closures), harvest and possession limits, and method and means (including motorboat restrictions) for take are the same as for the taking of salmon under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56, 5 AAC 57, and 5 AAC 77.54), except as noted below or as superseded by Federal Special Action. In addition, fishing will be allowed with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks in the Kenai River below Skilak Lake from June 15–August 31.

Species	Daily/ Possession Limit	Comments ⁰⁰
Early-run Chinook	2/2	May be retained if less than 46 inches or 55 inches or longer. The total Chinook Salmon annual limit is 4, which may be a combination of late- and early-run Chinook Salmon.
Late-run Chinook	2/2	20 inches or longer. The total Chinook Salmon annual limit is 4, which may be a combination of late- and early-run Chinook Salmon.
Sockeye	6/6	
Coho	Kenai River: 4/4 Russian River: 2/2	Combined daily bag limit of Sockeye, Coho, and Pink Salmon, 16 inches and longer, is six. No more than 4 may be Coho if taken in the Kenai River, and no more than 2 may be Coho if taken in the Russian River.
Pink	6/6	

Kenai River Salmon — Community Gillnet

- ◆ Residents of Ninilchik may harvest Sockeye, Chinook, Coho, and Pink Salmon with a gillnet in the Federal public waters of the Kenai River. Residents of Ninilchik may retain other species incidentally caught in the Kenai River except for Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden 18 inches or longer. Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden 18 inches or greater must be released.
- ◆ Only one community gillnet can be operated on the Kenai River. The gillnet cannot be over 10 fathoms in length to take salmon, and may not obstruct more than half of the river width with stationary fishing gear. Subsistence stationary gillnet gear may not be set within 200 feet of other subsistence stationary gear.
- ◆ One registration permit will be available and will be awarded by the Federal in-season fishery manager, in consultation with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge manager, based on the merits of the operation plan. The registration permit will be issued to an organization that, as the community gillnet owner, will be responsible for its use and removal in consultation with the Federal fishery manager. As part of the permit, the organization must:
 - Prior to the season, provide a written operation plan to the Federal fishery manager including a description of how fishing time and fish will be offered and distributed among households and residents of Ninilchik;
 - After the season, provide written documentation of required evaluation information to the Federal fishery manager including, but not limited to, persons or households operating the gear, hours of operation and number of each species caught and retained or released.
- ◆ The gillnet owner (organization) may operate the net for subsistence purposes on behalf of residents of Ninilchik by requesting a subsistence fishing permit that:
 - Identifies a person who will be responsible for fishing the gillnet;
 - Includes provisions for recording daily catches, the household to whom the catch was given, and other information determined to be necessary for effective resource management by the Federal fishery manager.

Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing

- ◆ Fishing will be allowed from June 15 through August 15 on the Kenai River unless closed or otherwise restricted by Federal special action.
- ◆ Salmon taken in the gillnet fishery will be included as part of the dip net/rod and reel fishery annual total harvest limits for the Kenai River and as part of dip net/rod and reel household annual limits of participating households.
- ◆ Fishing for each salmon species will end and the fishery will be closed by Federal special action prior to regulatory end dates if the annual total harvest limit for that species is reached or superseded by Federal special action.

Kenai River Resident Species — Rod and Reel

- ◆ Only residents of Hope, Cooper Landing, and Ninilchik may harvest resident species from the Kenai River under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.
- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return the completed harvest permit by the due date listed on the permit may result in issuance of a violation notice and will make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.
- ◆ No Federal open season for burbot or grayling

Location: All open Federal public waters in the Kenai River Drainage

Seasons, areas, harvest and possession limits, and method and means for take are the same as for the taking of these species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56, 5 AAC 57, and 5 AAC 77.54), except as noted below or as superseded by Federal Special Action.

Species	Daily/ Possession Limit	Comments
Dolly Varden/ Arctic Char	Flowing waters: 1/1	Below Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 18 inches. Above Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 16 inches.
	Lakes and ponds: 2/2	Only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
Lake Trout	4/4	20 inches or longer.
	15/15	Less than 20 inches.
	Hidden Lake: 2/2	Regardless of size.
Rainbow Trout/ steelhead	Flowing waters: 1/1	Below Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 18 inches. Above Skilak Lake outlet at RM 50: Must be less than 16 inches.
	Lakes and ponds: 2/2	Only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer. ¹

¹ Annual limit of 2 Rainbow Trout/steelhead 20 inches or longer per year.

Kasilof River Salmon — Dip Net/Fish Wheel/Rod and Reel

- ◆ Only residents of Ninilchik may harvest salmon from the Kasilof River under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.
- ◆ Only one fish wheel will be allowed in the upper mainstem of the Kasilof River. This is a temporary, three-year, fish wheel fishery for residents of Ninilchik. An operating plan must be submitted by an organization regarding who is responsible for the construction, installation, operation, use, and removal of the fish wheel. The plan must be approved by the in-season fishery manager, in consultation with the Kenai NWR manager, and must also include how fishing time and fish will be offered and distributed

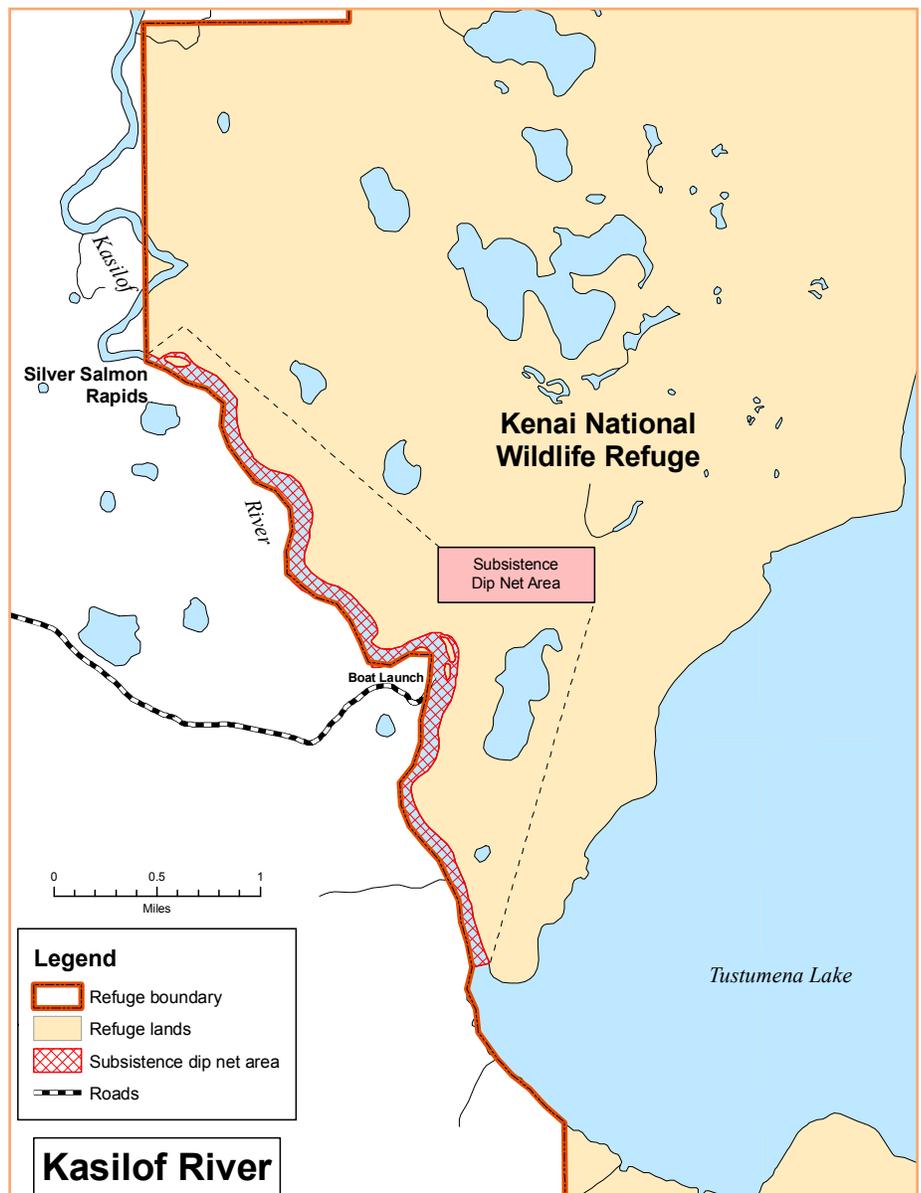
Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing

among households and residents of Ninilchik. For more information on submitting a plan for fish wheel use contact the Federal in-season manager, at 907-262-9863 or toll-free at 800-822-6550.

- ◆ Fishing for Sockeye, Chinook, Coho, or Pink Salmon will close by Special Action prior to regulatory end dates if the annual total harvest limit for that species is reached or superseded by other Federal Special Action.
- ◆ Salmon taken in the Kasilof River dip net or fish wheel fisheries will be included as part of each household's annual limit for the Kenai River.
- ◆ After 200 Rainbow Trout/steelhead have been taken in the dip net fishery, or after August 15, all Rainbow Trout/steelhead must be released unless otherwise provided. Rainbow Trout/steelhead cannot be kept in the fish wheel fishery.
- ◆ All fish harvested as part of the household limit in the dip net or fish wheel fisheries in the Kasilof River must be reported to the in-season manager within 72 hours of leaving the fishing location. Call (907) 262-9863 or (800) 822-6550 to report your harvest.

Kasilof River Dip Netting Location

Dip netting is allowed in the Kasilof River from a Federal regulatory marker on the river below the outlet of Tustumena Lake downstream to a marker on the river approximately 2.8 miles below the Tustumena Lake boat ramp.



Kasilof River Salmon — Dip Net/Fish Wheel/Rod and Reel (Continued)

- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return this completed harvest permit by the due date listed on the permit may result in issuance of a violation notice and will make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.

Location: Kasilof River from the outlet of Tustumena Lake to Silver Salmon Rapids

Note: Rod and reel with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks may also be used to harvest fish under household limits in dip netting locations.

Seasons, areas, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means for take are the same as for the taking of these species under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57), except as noted below or as superseded by Federal Special Action.

Species	Season	Household Limit/ Each Additional Household Member	Annual Total Harvest Limit
Chinook	June 16–Aug. 15	10/2	500
Sockeye	June 16–Aug. 15	25/5	4,000
Coho	June 6–Oct. 31	10/2	500
Pink	June 16–Oct. 31	10/2	500
Other species ¹	Incidental harvest allowed. All Rainbow Trout/steelhead taken after August 15, or after 200 Rainbow Trout/steelhead have been taken in these fisheries, must be released unless otherwise provided.		

¹ All Rainbow Trout/steelhead caught in a fish wheel must be released.

Kasilof River Salmon — Rod and Reel

Location: Tustumena Lake

Seasons, areas (including seasonal river bank closures), harvest and possession limits, and method and means (including motorboat restrictions) are the same as for the taking of salmon under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57), except as noted below. In addition, rod and reel with up to 2 baited single or treble hooks may also be used.

Species	Daily/Possession Limit	Comments
Coho	4/4	16 inches or longer
Pink	6/6	16 inches or longer

Kasilof River Salmon — Experimental Community Gillnet

- ◆ Residents of Ninilchik may harvest Sockeye, Chinook, Coho, and Pink Salmon through an experimental community gillnet fishery in the Federal public waters of the upper mainstem of the Kasilof River from a Federal regulatory marker on the river below the outlet of Tustumena Lake downstream to the Tustumena Lake boat launch from July 1 – 31. The experimental community gillnet fishery will expire 5 years after approval of the first operational plan.
- ◆ Only one community gillnet can be operated on the Kasilof River. The gillnet cannot be over 10 fathoms in length, and may not obstruct more than half of the river width with stationary fishing gear. Subsistence stationary gillnet gear may not be set within 200 feet of other subsistence stationary gear.

Kasilof River Salmon — Experimental Community Gillnet (Continued)

- ◆ One registration permit will be available and will be awarded by the Federal in-season fishery manager, in consultation with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge manager, based on the merits of the operation plan. The registration permit will be issued to an organization that, as the community gillnet owner, will be responsible for its use in consultation with the Federal fishery manager. The experimental community gillnet will be subject to compliance with Kenai National Wildlife Refuge regulations and restrictions.
 - Prior to the season, the organization will provide a written operation plan to the Federal fishery manager including a description of fishing method, mesh size requirements, fishing time and location, and how fish will be offered and distributed among households and residents of Ninilchik;
 - After the season, the organization will provide written documentation of required evaluation information to the Federal fishery manager including, but not limited to, persons or households operating the gear, hours of operation and number of each species caught and retained or released.
- ◆ The gillnet owner (organization) may operate the net for subsistence purposes on behalf of residents of Ninilchik by requesting a subsistence fishing permit that:
 - Identifies a person who will be responsible for fishing the gillnet;
 - Includes provisions for recording daily catches, the household to whom the catch was given, and other information determined to be necessary for effective resource management by the Federal fishery manager.
- ◆ Fishing for Sockeye, Chinook, Coho and Pink Salmon will be closed by Federal Special Action prior to the operational plan end dates if the annual total harvest limits for any salmon species is reached or suspended.
- ◆ Salmon taken in the gillnet fishery will be included as part of dip net/rod and reel fishery annual total harvest limits for the Kasilof River.
- ◆ All fish harvested must be reported to the in-season manager within 72 hours of leaving the fishing location.
 - A portion of the total annual harvest limits for the Kasilof River will be allocated to the experimental community gillnet fishery, and the gillnet fishery will be closed once the allocation limit is reached.
- ◆ Salmon taken in the experimental community gillnet fishery will be included as part of the dip net/rod and reel fishery annual household limits for the Kasilof River.
- ◆ Residents of Ninilchik may retain other species incidentally caught in the Kasilof River. When the retention of Rainbow/steelhead trout has been restricted under Federal subsistence regulations, the gillnet fishery will be closed.
- ◆ Before leaving the site, all harvested fish must be marked by removing their dorsal fin and all retained fish must be recorded on the fishing permit.
- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return the completed harvest permit by the due date listed on the permit may result in issuance of a violation notice and will make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.

Kasilof River Resident Species — Rod and Reel

- ◆ Only residents of Ninilchik may harvest resident species from the Kasilof River under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.

Cook Inlet Area Subsistence Fishing

- ◆ Failure to respond to reporting requirements or return the completed harvest permit by the due date listed on the permit may result in issuance of a violation notice and/or make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.

Location: All Federal public waters within the Kasilof River drainage

Seasons, areas (including seasonal river bank closures), harvest and possession limits, and method and means (including motorboat restrictions) for take are the same as for the taking of these fish under Alaska sport fishing regulations (5 AAC 56 and 5 AAC 57), except as noted below.

Species	Daily/Possession Limit	Comments
Dolly Varden/ Arctic Char	Flowing waters: 4/4 Lakes: 10/10	No size limit.
Lake Trout	4/4 15/15	20 inches or longer Less than 20 inches
Rainbow Trout	Flowing waters: 2/2 Lakes: 5/5	Only 1, 20 inches or longer, per day ¹

¹Annual limit of 2 Rainbow Trout/steelhead per year

Tustumena Lake — Under the Ice Fishery

- ◆ Only residents of Ninilchik may harvest fish through the ice from Tustumena Lake under Federal subsistence fishing regulations.
- ◆ You may take fish from Tustumena Lake with a gillnet no longer than 10 fathoms fished under the ice, or with jigging gear used through the ice, under authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. The total annual harvest quota for this fishery is 200 lake trout, 200 Rainbow Trout, and 500 Dolly Varden/Arctic Char. The use of a gillnet is prohibited after the harvest quota for any species has been met.
- ◆ For the jig fishery, annual household limits are 30 fish in any combination of lake trout, Rainbow Trout, or Dolly Varden/Arctic Char.
- ◆ You may harvest fish under the ice only in Tustumena Lake. Gillnets are not allowed within ¼ mile radius of the mouth of any tributary to Tustumena Lake or the outlet of Tustumena Lake.
- ◆ Permits will be issued by the Federal fisheries manager or designated representative and will be valid for one winter season, unless the season is closed by Special Action.
- ◆ All harvests must be reported within 72 hours to the Federal fisheries manager upon leaving the fishing site, in person or by phone. Call (907) 262-9863 or (800) 822-6550 to report your harvest.
- ◆ Harvest information must be recorded on the permit, including the number of each species caught; the number of each species retained; length, depth (number of meshes deep), and mesh size of gillnet fished; fishing site; and total hours fished. Harvest data on the permit must be filled out before transporting fish from the fishing site.
- ◆ Gillnets must be checked at least once in every 48-hour period.
- ◆ For unattended gear, the permittee's name and address must be plainly and legibly inscribed on a stake at one end of the gillnet.
- ◆ Incidentally caught fish may be retained and must be recorded on the permit before transporting fish from the fishing site.
- ◆ Failure to return the completed harvest permit by May 31 may result in issuance of a violation notice and will make you ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the following regulatory year.

Tustumena Lake — Under the Ice Fishery (Continued)

- ◆ Use of aircraft and off-road vehicles is subject to special Kenai National Wildlife Refuge regulations. Regulations provide that the Refuge Manager may open snowmachine access to Tustumena Lake between December 1 and April 30 when there is adequate snow and ice cover. Contact the Refuge at (907) 262-7021 for current regulations.

Location: Tustumena Lake, excluding within ¼ mile of tributaries and the outlet of the Kasilof River

Season: Per permit conditions

Species	Household Limit ¹	Annual Total Harvest Limit
Dolly Varden/Arctic Char	30	500
Lake Trout	30	200
Rainbow Trout/steelhead	30	200
Other species	Incidental harvest allowed	

¹ For the jig fishery, annual household limits are 30 fish in any combination of lake trout, Rainbow Trout, or Dolly Varden/Arctic Char. The use of a gillnet will be prohibited by Special Action after the harvest quota of any species has been met.