

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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P.O. Box 1467
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**KUSKOKWIM AREA MARINE WATERS AND DISTRICTS W-4
AND W-5 KING SALMON CONSERVATION MEASURES
Emergency Orders #3-S-WR-03-14; 3-S-WB-01-14; 3-S-WB-02-14**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will be managing Kuskokwim Area salmon fisheries to conserve Chinook salmon in 2014. Chinook salmon runs have continued to be poor throughout western Alaska from Goodnews Bay to Norton Sound including the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers. There will be fishing restrictions in the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers and Norton Sound in order to meet escapement goals and sustain Chinook salmon for the future. Restrictions have been implemented in coastal marine waters from Naskonat Peninsula to Point Romanzof in the Yukon Area in order to conserve Chinook salmon as they migrate through marine waters and return to natal rivers to spawn.

Kuskokwim River to Naskonat Peninsula

In order to protect Chinook salmon stocks migrating through coastal waters of the Kuskokwim Area, only gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less will be allowed in marine waters from Ishkowik River near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River west to Naskonat Peninsula effective 12:01 am June 3, 2014. A meeting was planned to talk to fishermen in Toksook on May 27. However, poor weather prevented travel. The department understands that most fishermen use smaller mesh gillnets and we are requesting subsistence fishermen in this area to avoid targeting Chinook salmon and target more numerous chum and pink salmon. Please contact the department in Bethel if you have any questions.

As stated in a previous news release, the marine waters of Kuskokwim Bay from a point east of the Ishkowik River at 59° 58.928' N, 162° 40.659' W to the northern boundary of District W-4 (at Weelung Creek) will be closed to subsistence fishing from 12:01 a.m. June 1, 2014 until further notice.

District W-4, Quinhagak

Subsistence salmon fishing will be closed from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on the following Sundays: June 8, 15, 22, and 29. ADF&G will be closely monitoring fishing effort and harvests and there may be further reductions with regards to subsistence fishing time and/or mesh size restrictions, in order to meet escapement goals.

District W-5, Goodnews Bay

Subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets will be restricted to the use of 6-inch or less mesh size not exceeding 50-fathoms in length and 45 meshes deep; effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 2 until further notice. ADF&G understands that most fishermen use smaller mesh gillnets and we are requesting subsistence fishermen in this area to avoid targeting Chinook salmon and target more numerous chum and sockeye salmon.

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 the 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 Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.