

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



*Cora J. Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Travis Elison, Acting Area Management Biologist

Kuskokwim Area Office
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: (907) 543-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021
Toll free: (855) 933-2433

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Geoffrey L. Haskett, Regional Director
Peter J. Probasco, Asst.
Regional Director Subsistence
Gene Peltola, Kuskokwim Area Inseason Manager
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 346
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: (907) 543-3151
Fax (907) 543-4413

Date Issued: June 23, 2012

**2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 9
Kuskokwim River Subsistence Salmon Fishing Restrictions**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for subsistence salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim River Drainage.

Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B: Section 1

Subsistence salmon fishing in the Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B (Rolling Closure Section 1) with 6-inch or less mesh not exceeding 50-fathoms in length has been extended until 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 27, 2012. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remains closed. The Chinook salmon run abundance will be assessed by the Department and the Federal Inseason Manager on Tuesday, June 26 and an announcement will be issued regarding subsistence salmon fishing in Section 1.

Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B (Rolling Closure Section 1) is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located between the Kialik and Johnson Rivers. This area is also known as the Lower Section of commercial fishing Subdistrict 1-B. Excluded waters are non-salmon spawning tributaries: those portions of Kinak, Kialik, and Tagayarak rivers more than 100 yards upstream from the mouth of these rivers, are open with any mesh size gillnet and are not affected by these closures.

The current Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) indicates that there are not enough Chinook salmon to meet the 2012 Chinook salmon Management Objective (Management

Objective) that was agreed upon by the Department, the Federal Inseason Manager, and was supported by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group).

If the BTF CPUE indicates that the Management Objective is likely to be met, subsistence restrictions may be reduced. However, if the BTF CPUE continues to indicate that the Management Objective will not be met; further management actions will be warranted.

The current BTF CPUE of chum and sockeye salmon indicate there is a harvestable surplus of these species. This assessment is also supported by subsistence harvest reports from Section 1 on June 22. Therefore, the Department and Federal Inseason Manager are allowing additional opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon with 6-inch or less mesh in Section 1.

The subsistence salmon fishing restrictions for Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 as announced in News Release 8 remain in effect.

Stay tuned for further announcements regarding subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office and through local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

ADF&G: Travis Elison in Bethel 907-543-2433

USFWS: Gene Peltola in Bethel 907-543-3151

-end-

