

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



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**2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 10
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 is currently restricted to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh not exceeding 50-fathoms in length until 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 27, 2012. This is to allow opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon while conserving Chinook salmon. Effective 12:00 a.m., Thursday, June 28, 2012 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed. Fishing for non-salmon species is restricted to the use of gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length. All gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh must be 45 meshes deep or less. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remains closed.

This area 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.

Upper Section of Subdistrict 1-B to Tuluksak: Section 2

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently restricted to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh not exceeding 50-fathoms in length until 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2012. This is to allow opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon while conserving Chinook salmon. Effective 12:00 a.m., Sunday, July 1, 2012 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed. Fishing for non-salmon species is restricted to the use of gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length. All gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh must be 45 meshes deep or less. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remains closed.

This area is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located between the Kialik and Johnson Rivers to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately half a mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth. This section includes the slough (locally known as Utak Slough) on the northwest side of the Kuskokwim River adjacent to the Tuluksak River mouth. Subsistence salmon fishing remains closed on the mainstem Kuskokwim River between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one half a mile above the mouth of the Tuluksak River to approximately one mile below the mouth of the Tuluksak River. Kuskokuak Slough remains closed from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the mouth of Kwethluk River downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the mouth of Kuskokuak Slough.

Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk: Section 3

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and fishing for non-salmon species is restricted to the use of gill nets with 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length until 11:59 p.m., Thursday, June 28, 2012. Effective 12:00 a.m., Friday, June 29, 2012 until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, 2012 subsistence salmon fishing will be restricted to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh not exceeding 50-fathoms in length. This is to allow opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon while conserving Chinook salmon. Effective 12:00 a.m., Thursday, July 5, 2012 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed and fishing for non-salmon species is restricted to the use of 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length. All gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh must be 45 meshes deep or less. Additionally, a fish wheel used to take fish must be equipped with a livebox that contains no less than 45 cubic feet of water volume while in operation. The livebox must be checked at least once every six hours while in operation and all Chinook salmon must be returned to the water alive. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remains closed.

This area is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately half a mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk. This section does NOT include the slough (locally known as Utak Slough) on the northwest side of the Kuskokwim River adjacent to the Tuluksak River mouth. Excluded waters are non-salmon spawning tributaries: the Whitefish Lake drainage near Aniak and those portions of Discovery, Birch, and Swift creeks 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.

Chuathbaluk to the Holitna River mouth: Section 4

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and fishing for non-salmon species is restricted to the use of gill nets with 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length until 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 3, 2012. Effective 12:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 4, 2012 until 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 9, 2012 subsistence salmon fishing will be restricted to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh not exceeding 50-fathoms in length. All gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh must be 45 meshes deep or less. This is to allow opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon while conserving Chinook salmon. Additionally, a fish wheel used to take fish must be equipped with a livebox that contains no less than 45 cubic feet of water volume while in operation. The livebox must be checked at least once every six hours while in operation and all Chinook salmon must be returned to the water alive. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remains closed.

This area is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River mouth. Subsistence salmon fishing remains closed on the mainstem Kuskokwim River between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the mouth of George River to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately half a mile downstream of George River.

The Holitna River mouth to the Headwaters of the Kuskokwim River: Section 5

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and fishing for non-salmon species is restricted to the use of gill nets with 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length until 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 8, 2012. Effective 12:00 a.m., Monday, July 9, 2012 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 14, 2012 subsistence salmon fishing will be restricted to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh not exceeding 50-fathoms in length. All gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh must be 45 meshes deep or less. This is to allow opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon while conserving Chinook salmon. Additionally, a fish wheel used to take fish must be equipped with a livebox that contains no less than 45 cubic feet of water volume while in operation. The livebox must be checked at least once every six hours while in operation and all Chinook salmon must be returned to the water alive. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remains closed.

This area is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River mouth upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.

Run Assessment

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 assessment of chum and sockeye salmon at the BTF indicates that there is a harvestable surplus of these species.

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

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		June																												
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30								
Rolling Closure Section		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat								
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B		[Red]							[Light Red]														[Dotted]							
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksek		[Light Red]														[Dotted]														
Section 3: Tuluksek to Chuathbaluk		[Light Red]														[Dotted]														
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth		[Light Red]														[Dotted]														
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters		[Light Red]														[Dotted]														

		July																									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
Rolling Closure Section		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B		[Dotted]																									
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksek		[Dotted]																									
Section 3: Tuluksek to Chuathbaluk		[Dotted]																									
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth		[Light Red]																									
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters		[Red]			[Light Red]															[Dotted]							

Key

[Red]	Original 7 day closure
[Light Red]	Additional 5 day extension
[Dotted]	Closed until further review of Chinook salmon run strength
[White]	Open to subsistence fishing with gillnets no larger than 6 inch mesh

****All subsistence closures pertain to gillnets larger than 4 inches and hook and line fishing.**
****Sport fishing is closed in the entire Kuskokwim River drainage as of Friday, June 22, 2012**