



**KODIAK AREA
SUBSISTENCE FISHERY
NEWS RELEASE**



STATE OF ALASKA
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Division of Commercial Fisheries
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2008

The Karluk River Chinook salmon return continues to be weak. Approximately 364 Chinook salmon have migrated upstream past the Karluk River weir counting station as of June 24. The desired Chinook salmon escapement for this date should range from 2,437 to 4,941. It is not expected that the Karluk River lower escapement goal for Chinook salmon (3,000) will be achieved. Commercial salmon fishing in the Inner and Outer Karluk sections will remain closed until the sockeye salmon escapement sufficiently improves.

If the Inner or Outer Karluk sections open to commercial salmon fishing, Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length taken in the commercial salmon fishery, may not be retained and must be returned to the water unharmed.

In an effort to conserve Karluk River Chinook salmon, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board will close the entire Karluk River drainage, including the Karluk River Lagoon below the Karluk River weir to subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 27, 2008, subsistence fishing in the Karluk River drainage, including the Karluk River Lagoon, will be closed to subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon. The Karluk River drainage, including the Karluk River lagoon, remains open to subsistence fishing for salmon species other than Chinook. Any Chinook salmon incidentally caught must be released to the waters unharmed.

Chinook salmon escapement into the Karluk River system will continue to be monitored daily

and subsistence salmon fishing opportunities may be adjusted based on changes in the run strengths. If the Karluk River Chinook salmon run sufficiently improves, the subsistence fishing restriction could be lifted to provide additional opportunity.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages sport, commercial, personal use, and state subsistence harvest on all lands and waters throughout Alaska. However, the Federal Subsistence Board assures a subsistence priority for rural residents as provided by Title VIII of ANILCA.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing.

This news release and fishery restriction has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.