



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: May 16, 2024

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2024 Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Dipnet Fishery Update: Status of CFEC Regulatory Changes

The Board of Fisheries (board) approved adding dipnets as a legal gear type to the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery at the recent 2024 Upper Cook Inlet meeting. While the board approved the use of the gear type and established regulations to guide the fishery, **the fishery may not be opened until the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) modifies regulation to add dipnets as a legal gear type to S04H permits.** As of May 13, CFEC has issued a notice of proposed regulatory changes for a 30-day comment period. This notice contains the regulatory change that would add dipnets as legal gear.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission at P.O. Box 110302, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302. Additionally, the commission will accept comments by facsimile at 907-789-6170, and by electronic mail at DFG.CFEC.PublicQuestions@alaska.gov. Comments may also be submitted through the Alaska Online Public Notice System, by accessing this notice on the system and using the comment link. The comments must be received not later than 5:00pm on June 13, 2024.

You may submit written questions relevant to the proposed action to Glenn Haight, Commissioner with the commission through e-mail at DFG.CFEC.PublicQuestions@alaska.gov or mail at P.O. Box 110302, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302. The questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period. The commission will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and the commission's website at <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us>.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Glenn Haight at glenn.haight@alaska.gov or 907-790-6942, not later than June 3, 2024 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and by contacting Glenn Haight at glenn.haight@alaska.gov or 907-790-6942.

A copy of material proposed for adoption by reference is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System or through https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/mnu_Regulations.htm.

After the public comment period ends, the commission will either adopt the proposed regulation

changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulation may be different from that of the proposed regulation. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected.

The CFEC commissioners will likely make a determination on the regulatory changes in late-June and finalized regulations would then likely be published later in July.

After CFEC regulations are finalized, ADF&G will be able to discretionary open the fishery to the use of dipnets under the Board approved regulations as follow:

- dipnets may be allowed only when set gillnet fishing is closed and based on abundance of sockeye salmon.
- The department may allow up to three 12-hour commercial dip net periods per week from June 20 – July 31 when set gillnet fishing is not open.
- The area allowed for both shore and vessel based fishing is the current set gillnet open areas excluding the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area. Shore based fishing may only occur from DNR shore lease sites.
- Retention of king and coho salmon is prohibited. King and coho salmon caught must be immediately released unless the fish is mortally wounded or dead and brought on board.
- Participation is limited to SO4H permit holders. Each permit holder may operate up to four dip nets at a time, each dipnet must be operated by the permit holder or a licensed crew member.
- All standard CFEC reporting requirements apply in addition to the stock of concern requirements listed for the set gillnet fishery above.
- A legal dipnet is defined as:
 - a dip net is a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame; the maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed five feet; the depth of the bag must be at least one-half of the greatest straight-line distance, as measured through the net opening; no portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4.5 inches; the frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand.

If you have questions regarding the ADF&G regulations listed above, please contact Colton Lipka or Lucas Stumpf at the ADF&G Soldotna office at 907-262-9368.