

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
**Sam Rabung, Director**

Kuskokwim Area Office  
P.O. Box 1467  
Bethel, AK 99559



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner**

PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)

## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release:*

**March 19, 2020**

**Time: 3:00 p.m.**

**CONTACT: Nick Smith and Ben Gray**

**Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists**  
**(907) 267-2379**

## **2020 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement 1**

### **Alaska Board of Fisheries Actions: Kuskokwim Area**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met in Anchorage from March 8–10, 2020 to consider proposals concerning Statewide King salmon, Tanner Crab, and Supplemental Issues. One Kuskokwim Area proposal was taken up by the board at this meeting. The following are changes that will be in effect for the 2020 subsistence salmon season.

A substitute version of proposal 280 was adopted by the board. There was a wide range of support and opposition for this proposal. Four AC's were represented at this meeting: Lower Kuskokwim, Bethel, Central Kuskokwim, and SHAC. These AC's represented the diverse support and oppositions for Prop 280. For example, SHAC opposed while Lower Kuskokwim supported without modification. A compromise proposal with substitute language was made with all four AC members. The substitute language added 6" or less bank-oriented set gillnets as a legal gear type in addition to the current 4" or less set gillnet gear type. This would only be used after the front-end closure. Second, in the top tier of the management plan, when king salmon abundance is projected to be above the drainagewide escapement goal, the once weekly bank-oriented set gillnet periods during the front-end closure are fished with 6" or less mesh. If the projection is within the escapement goal range, the once weekly bank-oriented set net periods during the front end will still be fished with 4" or less mesh.

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>), local radio stations, and Kuskokwim River Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/KuskoRiverFishingADFG/>). News releases will be faxed to area villages. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

-end-