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## **Advisory Announcement**

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### **UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 1 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-01-20**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 1 reduces the hours the directed king salmon commercial fishery is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in all waters of the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet for the 2020 season. The fishing dates affected by this closure are May 25, and June 1, 8, 15, and 22.

The 2020 preseason run forecast for Deshka River king salmon is approximately 10,570 fish, which suggests harvest must be very limited in order to achieve the newly modified sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 9,000–18,000 fish. Based on this low forecast, and recent low king salmon production throughout the Susitna Drainage, the Division of Sport Fish issued two Emergency Orders (EOs No. 2-KS-2-08-20 and EO No. 2-KS-2-09-20) prohibiting retention of king salmon in areas 1,3,4,5, and 6 of the Susitna River drainage, and closing area 2 entirely to king salmon fishing.

At the 2020 UCI Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, new regulations were adopted pairing restrictive actions in the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery with the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery. The new regulation states that when the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery is restricted to catch and release fishing, the commercial set gillnet fishery shall be restricted to 6-hour fishing periods that occur from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Mondays. This announcement follows these new regulations.

Escapement of king salmon in the Deshka River will be closely monitored during the 2020 season. If runs are stronger than expected and retention of king salmon is allowed in the Deshka River sport fishery, reestablishing 9 or 12 hour openings in the directed king salmon commercial fishery will occur.

### **COVID-19**

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>