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Advisory Announcement

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 4 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-04-20

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4 modifies 5AAC 21.320(a)(2)(E) Weekly Fishing Periods with set gillnets in all waters of the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District, effective immediately. During the 2020 fishing season, salmon may be taken with set gillnets in the Upper Subdistrict only during fishing periods established by emergency order (EO), unless modified by subsequent EO.

All Central District fisheries other than the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be open for regular 12-hour fishing periods on Monday and Thursday beginning on Thursday, June 25, 2020.

On Monday, June 15, 2020, the Division of Sport Fish issued EO No. 2-KS-1-22-20 restricting the king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River beginning July 1, 2020. This announcement states, "In order to achieve the Kenai River late-run king salmon escapement goal, we are starting the July fishery without bait and anglers may only keep king salmon that are less than 34 inches in length. Based upon the preseason forecast and recent king salmon performance in the early-run and around Cook Inlet, restrictions are warranted in order to meet the escapement goal and still provide fishing opportunity for Kenai River late-run king salmon."

According to 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(B) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, in order to achieve the SEG and provide reasonable harvest opportunity for the king salmon sport fishery, if the sport fishery is restricted to no retention of fish over 34 inches, commercial fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, are open for no more than 36 hours per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday. With regularly scheduled fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays no longer in effect in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, any and all fishing time provided to this fishery may occur only via EO during the 2020 fishing season.

In addition to all fishing time coming via EO only in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has also mandated gear restrictions during all Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishing periods when the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery is restricted. These

mandatory gear restrictions are to be implemented from the beginning of the season through July 31 in the entire Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery. The specific gear restriction option that ADF&G chooses to implement will be identified in each UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, 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/>