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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: June 24, 2020***

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### **UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 6 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-06-20**

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 6 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020.

Fishing in the above described waters is warranted in order to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kasilof River.

By regulation, all other set gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet, with the exception of the Kenai and East Foreland sections, will fish their regularly scheduled period from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday June 25, 2020. Also by regulation, drift gillnetting will be open district-wide, except for Chinitna Bay, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020.

As announced in UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4, gear restrictions are in place for all Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishermen from the beginning of the season through July 31, 2020. During this fishing period in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict, legal gear is restricted to no more than two set gillnets per permit that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or no more than one set gillnet per permit that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. As a reminder, any set gillnet that is not more than 29 meshes in depth as part of this restrictive provision must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter.

5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(B) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* restricts the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to 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 With regularly scheduled fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays no longer in effect in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, any and all fishing time may occur only via EO. With this fishing announcement, 27 hours of EO time will have been used for the week of June 21–June 27.

Fish harvested in the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery during this fishing period should be reported in statistical areas 244-21, 244-22, or 244-31 (for a description of these statistical areas,

please see UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 5). Fish harvested in the drift gillnet fishery during this fishing period should be reported in statistical areas 244-60.

### **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/>