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Advisory Announcement

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 9 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-09-20

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 9 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2020.

For this open period set gillnet gear restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict will be changed.

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 the July 2, 2020 fishing period in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict, legal gear is restricted to no more than three set gillnets per permit that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or no more than two set gillnets per permit that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth.

This announcement also opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets (see below additional set gillnet gear restriction) from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2020 within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line (60° 27.10' N. lat.) and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker (60° 30.49' N. lat.) located south of the Kenai River mouth; i.e., the North Kalifornsky Beach statistical area (244-32). Following 5 AAC 21.310 (b) (2) (C) (ii), and UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement #4, during the July 2 opening in the North Kalifornsky Beach statistical area, legal gear is restricted to set gillnets that are no greater than 29 meshes in depth and with mesh sizes no greater than four and three quarters inches. Up to 3 set gillnets per permit may be used, each no greater than 35 fathoms in length. No set gillnets greater than 29 meshes in depth may be used in the North Kalifornsky beach statistical area during this opening.

Additionally, this announcement extends drift gillnetting from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2020 in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict (not the Expanded Kasilof section).

Commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnets is open by regulation on Thursday July 2, 2020, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., district wide in the Central District, except for the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict.

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

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 28–July 4.

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 244-61. Fish harvested in the North Kalifornsky Beach statistical area should be reported in statistical area 244-32

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/>