

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

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 1, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Ben Gray and Nick Smith

Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists

Bethel - (907) 543-2331 Anchorage - (907) 267-2379

Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery Announcement #3

Districts 4 and 5 Commercial Fishery

Emergency Order 3-S-WB-03-20

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for commercial fishermen in Districts W4 & W5, Kuskokwim Bay.

There is one commercial processor registered to buy in the Kuskokwim Bay Area; Please contact Jon Saarheim with WildFish Marketing at 907-236-6024 with questions regarding selling your catch. It is the commercial fisherman's responsibility to ensure that they have a market for their catch.

Permit holders must be in possession of a 2020 Kuskokwim Area commercial salmon permit and a government issued i.d. card or driver's license. All crewmembers must have a 2020 commercial crewmember's license or a 2020 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit.

All harvest information concerning this fishery are confidential until the close of the season, 5 AAC 39.135.

District 4, Quinhagak:

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 3 with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, 45 meshes in depth, and 50 fathoms in length.

District 4 consists of the Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the northernmost edge of the mouth of Weelung Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River. Please refer to Figure 1 for a visual of District 4 waters.

Within District 4, the open area for this period has been reduced. The closed waters will be south of a line at lat 59° 45.266' N., north of a line at lat 59° 44.7036' N., and east of a line at long 161° 57.616' W. This will create a closed waters box around the Kanektok River mouth. The box will be approximately 500 yards to the north and south of the river mouth and extend approximately one mile offshore. Please refer to Figure 2 for a visual of the closed waters box. The GPS coordinates will be the legal definition of the closed waters. The remainder of District 4 will be open to commercial salmon fishing.

The fishing area of District 4 is being reduced temporarily for the conservation of Chinook salmon. The department has determined through communication with local fisherman that Chinook salmon mill near the mouth of the Kanektok River and move with the tides in and out of the river mouth. This closed waters box will provide a sanctuary for Chinook salmon during commercial fishing periods, while still allowing fisherman an opportunity to harvest other salmon species.

ADF&G will assess the catches from Friday's period before deciding on the next commercial fishing period.

In District 4, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of District 4 waters on Friday, July 3, at 12:01 a.m. Subsistence fishing will reopen on Saturday, July 4, at 12:01 a.m.**

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 3 with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, 45 meshes in depth, and 50 fathoms in length.

District 5 consists of that portion of Goodnews Bay east of a line from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles south on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles north on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay and west of a line between the mouth of Ukfigag Creek at lat 59° 04.17' N., long 161° 36' W., and the mouth of the Tunulik River at lat 59° 08' N., long 161° 37' W. Please see Figure 3 for a visual of District 5 waters.

ADF&G will assess the catches from Friday's period before deciding on the next commercial fishing period.

In District 5, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of District 5 waters on Friday, July 3, at 12:01 a.m. Subsistence fishing will reopen on Saturday, July 4, at 12:01 a.m.**

Fishermen in Districts 4 and 5 are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages.

COVID-19

Under Alaska 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/>.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. Advisory Announcements will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:

ADF&G: Ben Gray in Bethel 907-543-2331 or Nicholas Smith in Anchorage 907-267-2379

-end-

District W-4, Kuskokwim Bay

Kuskokwim Management Area

As defined in 5 AAC 07.200, District 4 consists of Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the northernmost edge of the mouth of Weelung Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arctik River.



Figure 1. Map of District 4, Quinhagak



Figure 2. Closed waters for District 4, Quinhagak.

District W-5, Goodnews Bay Kuskokwim Management Area

As defined in 5 AAC 07.200, District 5 consists of that portion of Goodnews Bay east of a line from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles south on the seaward side entrance of Goodnews Bay to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles north on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay and west of a line between the mouth of Ukfigag Creek at 59° 04.17' N. lat., 161° 36' W. long. and the mouth of the Tunulik River at 59° 08' N. lat., 161° 37' W. long.



Figure 3. Map of District 5, Goodnews Bay