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Advisory Announcement
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 21
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-21-20

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 21 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark on the Kenai Peninsula shoreline from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Under 5AAC 21.359 (e)(3)(F) open periods of the Upper Subdistrict within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark are exempt from gear and time restrictions. For the July 21 fishing period, as per 5AAC 21.331 up to 4 set gillnets per permit may be used, each no greater than 35 fathoms in length, and 105 fathoms in aggregate length, and up to 45 meshes in depth. All set gillnets must be at least 600 feet apart (5 AAC 21.335), and they must be within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark as per this announcement.

As of July 19, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is 61% complete based on average run timing and projects a final escapement of more than 443,000 fish. The biological escapement goal for Kasilof River sockeye salmon of 140,000 to 320,000 has been achieved. 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. However, 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(F) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* identifies fishing periods limited to fishing within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in the Upper Subdistrict are exempt from hour and gear limitations identified under (e)(3)(A)-(E).

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/>