

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: July 21, 2020***

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**UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 22**  
**EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-22-20**

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 22 opens commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Foreland sections of the Upper Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 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 the July 22 fishing period, legal gear in the entire Upper Subdistrict 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.

This announcement also opens commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnets in the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point sections of the Central District from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

As of July 20, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon run is 64% complete based on average run timing and projects a final escapement of more than 434,000 fish. The biological escapement goal for Kasilof River sockeye salmon of 140,000 to 320,000 has been achieved. In the Kenai River, average sockeye salmon passage into the Kenai River is 36% complete through July 20, projecting an in river run of 1.0 to 1.5 million sockeye salmon based on average to 3 day late run timings. Fishing in the above described waters is warranted in order to harvest sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(C) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* restricts the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to no more than 24 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 With regularly scheduled fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays no longer in effect in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, any and all fishing time may occur only via EO.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, 24 hours of the available 24 hours of EO time will have been used for the week of July 19–July 25.

## **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/>