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Advisory Announcement

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 28 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-28-20

Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 28 opens commercial fishing with drift gillnets only in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and the Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020. Commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear remains closed within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River.

As per Emergency Order # 2S-04-20 issued on June 22, 2020, there are no regular set gillnet fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict of UCI. Due to the low abundance of Kenai River late-run king salmon, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery remains closed on August 10, 2020 and will remain closed until further notice. The department will continue to monitor escapement of king salmon in the Kenai River and future openings may occur if the king salmon OEG is projected to be achieved in 2020.

All other set gillnet fisheries in UCI, outside of the Upper Subdistrict, will fish the regularly scheduled period from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020. Northern District set gillnetters are reminded that beginning Monday, August 10 at 7 a.m., they may use a full complement of set gillnet gear. Set gillnetters of the entire Western Subdistrict are reminded that the fishing periods as of Monday, August 10, are Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The biological escapement goal for Kasilof River sockeye salmon of 140,000 to 320,000, and the optimal escapement goal of 140,000 to 370,000 have been exceeded. In the Kenai River, average sockeye salmon passage is 85% complete through August 8, projecting an inriver run of 1.1 to 1.2 million sockeye salmon based on average to 3 day late run timing scenarios. Additionally, current coho salmon escapement to the Little Susitna River projects a final run below the sustainable escapement goal range of 9,000 to 17,700. Therefore, in order to harvest Kenai and Kasilof river salmon, while minimizing harvest of Northern Cook Inlet coho salmon, the drift gillnet fishing period on Monday, August 10, 2020 is being restricted to the Expanded Kenai, the Expanded Kasilof and the Anchor Point sections.

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/>