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Advisory Announcement

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 29 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-29-20

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 29 reduces the open fishing time for set gillnets from twelve hours to six hours per day, or from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., in that portion of the General Subdistrict of the Northern District east of the Susitna River, including Fire Island, on Thursday, August 13, 2020 (see Figure 1).

The Division of Sport Fish released Emergency Order 2-SS-2-48-20, prohibiting the use of bait in the Little Susitna River effective 12:01 a.m., August 6. On August 11, Emergency Order 2-SS-2-50-20 reduced the bag and possession limit for coho salmon effective 12:01 a.m., August 13. The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 9,200–17,700 fish. Recent daily weir counts remain below average. As of August 11, total passage through the Little Susitna weir of 3,317 coho salmon projects that the minimum SEG will not be achieved.

The restrictive actions to commercial fishing in this announcement are intended to reduce the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Little Susitna River.

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/>

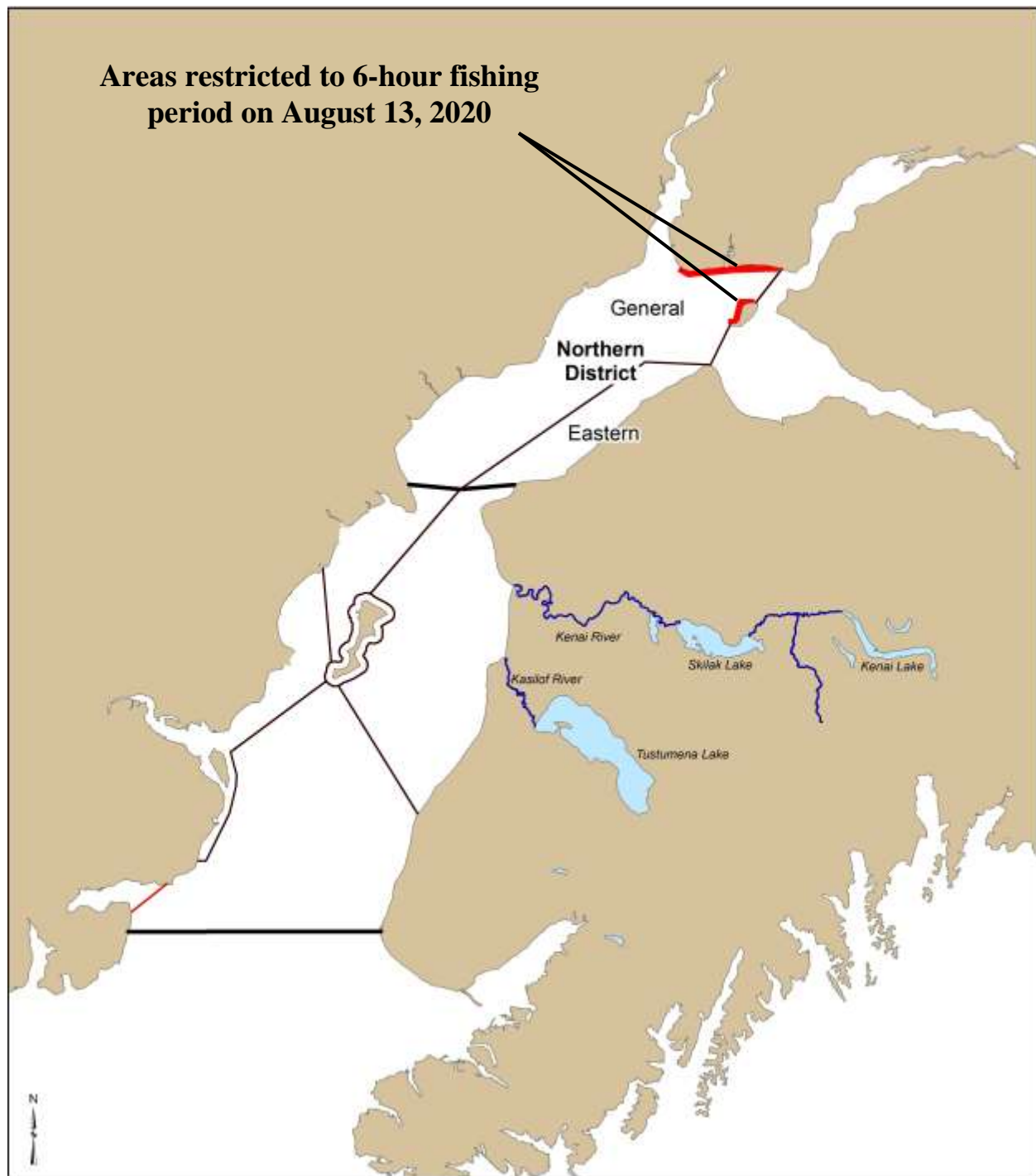


Figure 1. Map of the area restriction for the August 13, 2020 fishing period.