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Advisory Announcement

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 31 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-31-20

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 31 opens set and drift gillnetting in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict of the Central District on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. The Chinitna Bay Subdistrict includes those waters west of a line from Spring Point to Sea Otter Point. During these fishing periods, the open area to drift gillnetting is east of a line from the crane on the south shore at 59° 49.91' N. lat., 153° 05.47' W. long., to the ADF&G regulatory marker on Glacier Spit at 59° 51.67' N. lat., 153° 07.92' W. long (5 AAC 21.330(c)).

An aerial survey of Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek was conducted on August 11, 2020. This survey produced an estimate of approximately 3,970 chum salmon resident in these streams. The chum salmon aerial survey sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek is 3,500–8,000 fish. Therefore, opening Chinitna Bay to set and drift gillnetting as described in this announcement is warranted.

Beginning 8/17/20 by regulation, only drift gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for regular drift gillnet fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Chinitna Bay also remains open to set gillnetting for regular fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

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/>