ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE

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2015 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #5
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-05-15

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

<u>From the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak to the Headwaters of the Kuskokwim River:</u>

The Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak to the Headwaters will open to subsistence salmon fishing with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, 45 meshes deep, and not to exceed 10 fathoms in length, for Alaska residents 60 years of age or older, Saturday, June 20 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

An Alaska resident 60 years of age or older must be present while fishing activities are being conducted but may be assisted by family members within the second degree of kindred. A gillnet longer than 10 fathoms may be used as long as only 10 fathoms is in a fishable condition and the remainder of the gillnet is either tied up or secured so that it is not in the water in a fishing condition.

<u>As Previously Announced</u>
Subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook salmon remains closed until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught by hook and line must be returned alive to the water.

Subsistence fishing with dip nets is currently allowed until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught in a dip net must be returned immediately to the water alive.

Subsistence fishing with fish wheels is currently allowed until further notice. Fish wheels are required to have a live box with no less than 45 cubic feet of water, must be checked at least every 6 hours. Fish wheels can be equipped with a chute and must be closely attended while in operation. All Chinook salmon must be returned alive to the water.

Subsistence fishing periods to harvest chum and sockeye salmon with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or less mesh size, will be announced at a later date. These fishing periods will be based on Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon abundance. Period scheduling, length of gillnets and duration for this gear type will be based on inseason run assessment and may be limited in time to reduce incidental harvest of Chinook salmon.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska web site (http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.
For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.