

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Aaron Poetter, Area Management Biologist
Aaron Tiernan, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 543-2433
Toll Free: 855-933-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021

Kuskokwim Area Office
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Date Issued: July 9, 2015
Time: 5:00 p.m.

**2015 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release #13
Emergency Order #3-S-WR-17-15, 3-S-WR-18-15, 3-S-WR-19-15**

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

Subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets will be allowed in the Kuskokwim River as specified:

From the Johnson River to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River; with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, 45 meshes deep, and not to exceed 50 fathoms in length from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2015.

From the Johnson River to Tuluksak; with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, 45 meshes deep, and not to exceed 50 fathoms in length from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2015.

From Tuluksak to the Holitna River; with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets, 45 meshes deep, and not to exceed 50 fathoms in length, from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2015.

The waters of the Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak downstream to a line formed between two points lat 61° 35.076' N, long 159° 32.527' W and lat 61° 35.263' N, long 159° 32.088' W (Figure 1) will be closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2015.

The use of dip nets for subsistence salmon fishing will be discontinued in the Kuskokwim River drainage from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak to the Holitna River effective 9:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2015.

As Previously Announced

Subsistence fishing with gillnets is closed in the following tributaries:

- The Kwethluk River drainage including its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough and downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream mouth of the slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G regulatory markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.

The Kuskokwim River and its tributaries, from the Holitna River to the Headwaters of the Kuskokwim River are open to subsistence fishing with a hook and line for Chinook salmon. The Chinook salmon limit for this hook and line opportunity will be 3 fish per day, 6 in possession.

Subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook salmon remains closed until further notice, except as specified above. Any Chinook salmon caught by hook and line must be returned alive to the water.

Subsistence fishing within the Stony River is unrestricted.

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.

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.

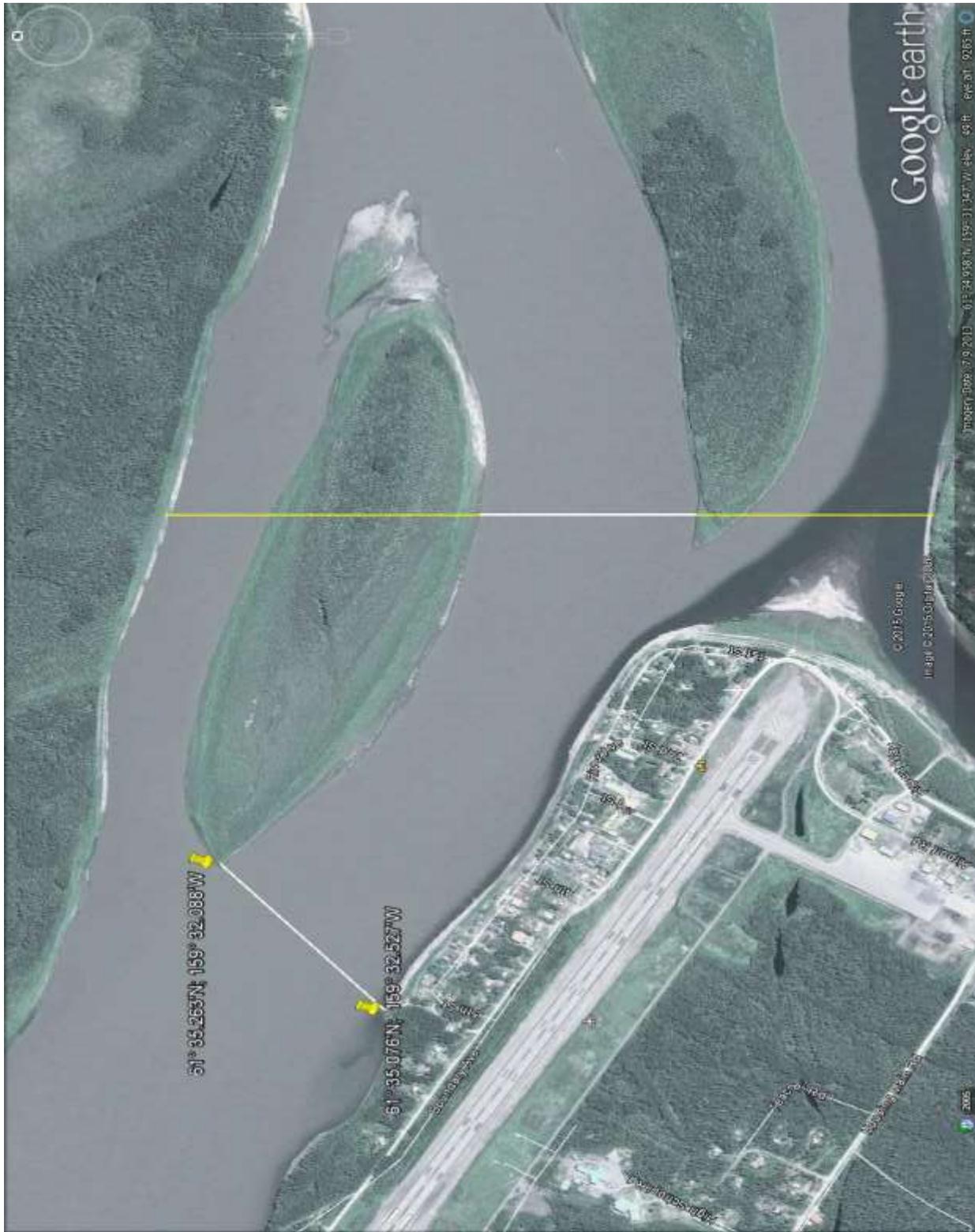


Figure 1.-Closed waters in front of Aniak for July 8.