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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner Scott Kelley, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game Aaron Poetter, Area Management Biologist Aaron Tiernan, Assistant Area Management Biologist Kuskokwim Area Office P.O. Box 1467 Bethel, AK 99559 Phone: (907) 543-2433 Toll free: (855) 933-2433 Fax: (907) 543-2021 U.S. Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Karen P. Clark, Acting Regional Director Ray Born, Refuge Manager Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 346 Bethel, AK 99559 Toll Free: (800) 621-5804 Phone: (907) 543-3151 Fax (907) 543-4413

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Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #2 Emergency Order #3-S-WR-01-16

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

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 20, 2016, the Kuskokwim River Drainage from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to ADF&G markers downstream of the Holitna River mouth and;

From 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 1, 2016, upstream of ADF&G markers near the Holitna River mouth to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River the following subsistence fishing restrictions will go into effect:

Subsistence fishing with gillnets will be closed on the <u>Kuskokwim River</u> and the <u>following</u> <u>tributaries</u>:

- 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.

Subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook salmon will close until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught must be returned alive to the water.

Subsistence fishing with fish wheels will be 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 may 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 with dip nets and beach seines is currently allowed until further notice. Any Chinook salmon caught in a dip net or beach seine must be returned immediately to the water alive.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska web site (<u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main</u>), 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.

For additional information concerning this news release: **ADF&G**: Aaron Poetter in Anchorage 907-267-2303 or Aaron Tiernan 907-267-2379 **USFWS:** Ray Born in Bethel 907-543-3151

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