

Division of Commercial Fisheries  
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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: July 28, 2021*

**Time: 3:00 p.m.**

**CONTACT: Nick Smith and Ben Gray**

**Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists  
(907) 543-2709**

### **Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #12**

#### **Emergency Order #3-S-WR-12-21**

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

The Bethel test fishery cumulative CPUE on July 26 for coho salmon was 109 and the total coho salmon passage past the sonar was 27,210 fish. On average, approximately 4% of the coho salmon run has passed through Bethel on July 26. On July 30, an average of 99-100% of the king salmon run, 99-100% of the sockeye salmon run, and 96-98% of the chum salmon run will have passed through Bethel. Therefore, relaxing subsistence fishing restrictions on the mainstem Kuskokwim River is warranted.

**In the Kuskokwim River Drainage (Subsistence Sections 1-5, Mouth of Kuskokwim River to Headwaters) the following management actions will be in effect beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021:**

- **Subsistence fishing will open** with gillnets (set or drift) **until further notice** from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.
  - Gillnets may be up to 50 fathoms in length and unrestricted mesh size.
  - The waters around the mouth of the Aniak River (Aniak box) will be open to gillnets.
- Chinook salmon may be retained while fishing with hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels, and beach seines within the Kuskokwim River.
- Chum salmon caught in a fish wheel or beach seine must be returned immediately to the water alive until **11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 31, 2021.**

**As Previously Announced:** Subsistence fishing with gillnets will remain closed in the following tributaries until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

- The Eek River to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.
- The Kwethluk River drainage to its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages to their confluences with Old 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.

**In addition:** Live release requirements for Chinook salmon while fishing with hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels, and beach seines remain in effect within the Eek, Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, and Aniak River drainages until **11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 31, 2021.** Any Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive.

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>), local radio stations, and Kuskokwim River Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/KuskoRiverFishingADFG/>). Advisory Announcements will be faxed to area villages. For additional information or questions regarding Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 1-855-933-2433.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, subsistence and commercial fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

**For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:**  
**ADF&G Bethel Office:** Nicholas Smith 907-543-2709 or Ben Gray 907-543-2331

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