



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 16, 2026

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 6 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2-F-H-07-26

Commercial fishing with dip nets will be allowed in the North K-Beach statistical area and the Kasilof section (statistical areas 244-32, 244-21, 244-22, and 244-31; Figure 1) from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, from June 22 through July 31, 2026, unless modified by emergency order.

Additionally, commercial fishing with dip nets will be allowed in the East Foreland, Kenai, and Kasilof sections (Figure 1) from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, from July 6 through July 31, 2026, unless modified by emergency order.

The forecast for Kasilof River sockeye salmon in 2026 is 1.4 million fish which exceeds the upper bound of the BEG of 140,000–370,000 fish and anticipated harvest from all fisheries. The forecast for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon is 4.4 million fish which is near the upper end of the middle tier run range of 2.3–4.6 million fish and directs the department to manage for an inriver run goal of 1.1-1.4 million fish.

This fishing opportunity is consistent with the *Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan* (5 AAC 21.382) that allows commercial dip net fishing based upon sockeye salmon abundance. The schedule may be modified in order to achieve management objectives as inseason projections become available. Permit holders will need to register their permits to fish in the Upper Subdistrict at the Soldotna ADF&G office prior to fishing.

5 AAC 21.382. *Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan* stipulates:

(5) From June 20 through July 31;

(A) allow for the use of dip nets as an alternative gear type for holders of a S04H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit;

(B) openings may occur outside of specified openings in this section based on abundance of sockeye salmon from 7:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, unless closed by emergency order;

(C) a S04H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit holder may operate not more than four dip nets at a time, the dip nets must be operated by either the permit holder or an ADFG licensed crewmember;

(D) retention of king and coho salmon is prohibited

(E) fishing with a dip net may occur from a vessel or from shore; fishing from shore must occur at the location of a shore fishery tract identified in the recorded plat for that lease under AS 38.05.082 or City of Kenai shore fishery lease; nothing in this subsection affects or changes the terms or conditions of a lease and its lessee under AS 38.05.082 or a City of Kenai shore fishery lease and its lessee;

(h) The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) is closed to commercial fishing.

In 5 AAC 39.105 of the Alaska Administrative Code, a dipnet is defined as:

1. a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame;
2. the maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed five feet;
3. the depth of the bag must be at least one-half of the greatest straight-line distance, as measured through the net opening;
4. no portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4.5 inches;
5. the frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand.

General Information for all UCI commercial fisheries and specifics about harvest levels, required permits, reporting requirements, or the registration processes, can be obtained by calling the Soldotna ADF&G staff at 907-262-9368, and also by viewing the ADF&G UCI commercial fisheries web site. <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareauci.main>

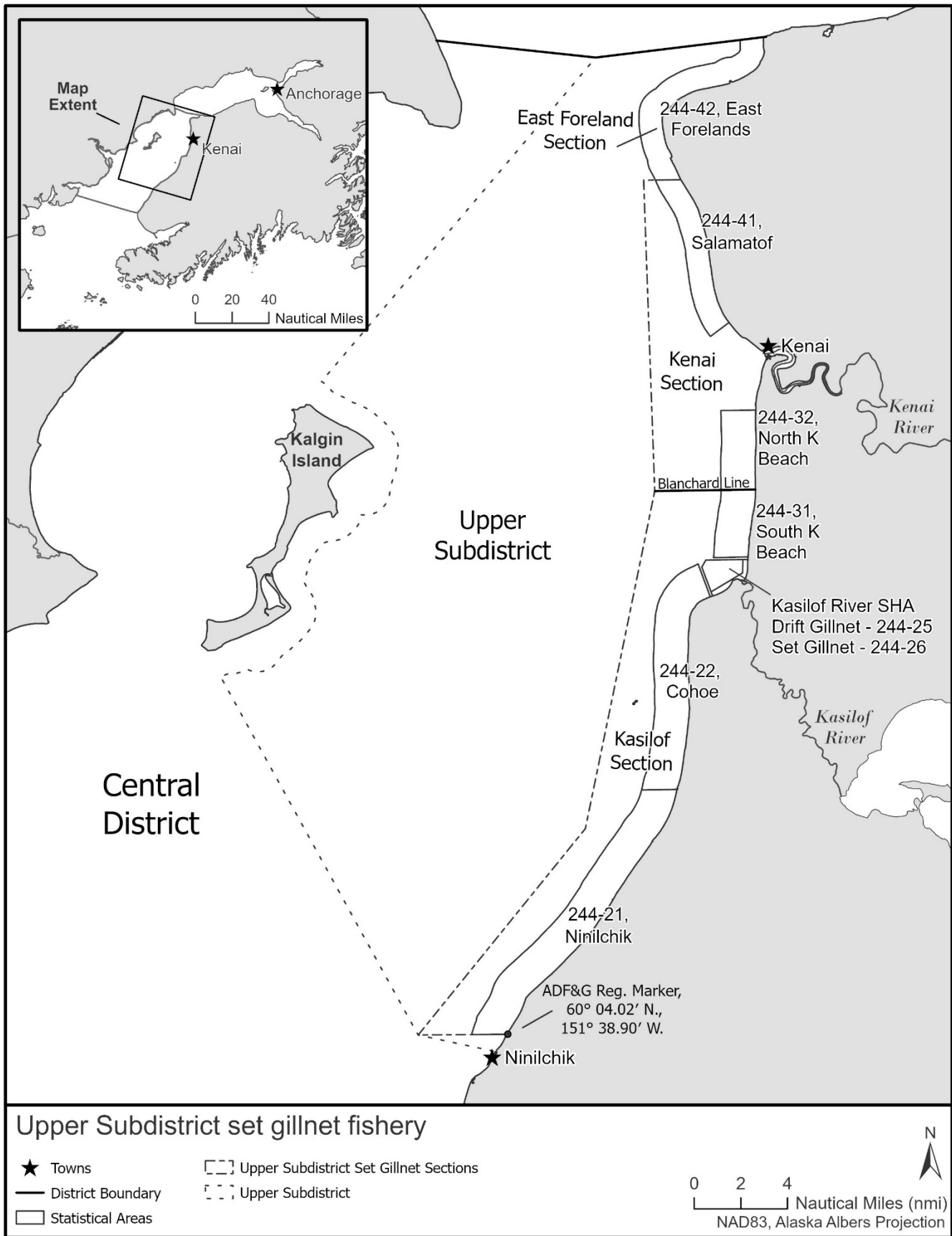
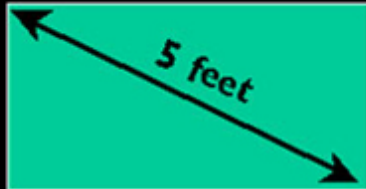


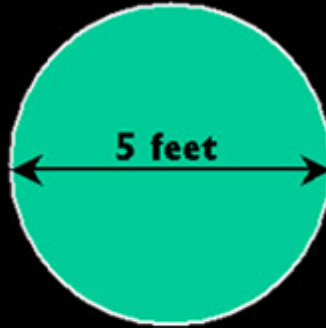
Figure 1. Map of Upper Subdistrict set gillnet and dipnet sections and statistical areas.

Legal dipnet size

A dipnet must not be larger than five (5) feet at its **WIDEST** point.



Measure square or rectangular nets on the diagonal.



Measure circular or oval nets straight across their widest point.



The depth of the bag must be at **LEAST** half the widest measurement of the opening.

A net with a 5 foot hoop must have a bag at least 2½ feet deep.

The bag can be deeper, but not shallower.

Figure 2. Diagram of legal dipnet size.