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**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
ALASKA**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Shellene Hutter, Program Coordinator  
Department of Fish and Game

**FROM:** April Simpson, Alaska Administrative Code Coordinator  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Simpson".

**DATE:** May 18, 2026

**RE:** Filed Permanent Regulations: Board of Fisheries

Board of Fisheries regulations re: Traditional knowledge, set beach seine updates,  
commissioner permits (5 AAC 01)

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Attorney General File:	2026200190
Regulation Filed:	5/18/2026
Effective Date:	6/17/2026
Print:	258, July 2026

cc with enclosures: Beth Parsons, Paralegal  
Department of Law

Lisa Gorman, Alaska Legal Analyst  
LexisNexis



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Law**

CIVIL DIVISION

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May 15, 2026

The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110015  
Juneau, AK 99811-0015

Re: *5 AAC 01, 05, 21, 96: Board of Fisheries - Traditional knowledge, set  
beach seine updates, commissioner permits*  
Our file: 2026200190

Dear Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom:

The Department of Law has reviewed the attached regulations of the Board of Fisheries against the statutory standards of the Administrative Procedure Act. Based upon our review, we find no legal problems. This letter constitutes the written statement of approval under AS 44.62.060(b) and (c) that authorizes your office to file the attached regulations. The regulations were adopted by the Board of Fisheries after the close of the public comment period.

The regulations concern Yukon River king and fall chum salmon stock of concern management plans, Cook Inlet beach seine permits, commissioner experimental permits, and traditional knowledge.

The agency has alerted us that these regulations are time sensitive. *Accordingly, we respectfully request that they be filed on or before May 19, 2026.*

The public notice and the certification of adoption order both state that this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation. Therefore, a fiscal note under AS 44.62.060 is not required.

We have made some technical corrections to conform the regulations in accordance with AS 44.62.060. The corrections are incorporated into the attached copy of the regulations.

Sincerely,

CORI MILLS  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Rebecca C. Polizzotto  
Rebecca C. Polizzotto  
Chief Assistant Attorney General  
Legislation, Regulations, and  
Legislative Research Section

Digitally signed by  
Rebecca C. Polizzotto  
Date: 2026.05.15  
12:08:24 -08'00'

RCP/SCW/bhp

CC w/enclosure: Shellene Hutter, Regulations Contact  
Department of Fish and Game

Edward C. Lee, Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Law

Steven C. Weaver, Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Law

ORDER CERTIFYING THE CHANGES TO  
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The attached regulations, dealing with subsistence and commercial fisheries and administrative regulations occurring statewide are certified to be a correct copy of the regulation changes that the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted at its May 1, 2026 meeting, under the authority of AS 16.05.251 and after compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), specifically including notice under AS 44.62.190 and 44.62.200 and opportunity for public comment under AS 44.62.210.

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

On the record, in considering public comments, the Alaska Board of Fisheries paid special attention to the cost to private persons of the regulatory action being taken.

The regulation changes described in this order take effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the lieutenant governor, as provided in AS 44.62.180.

Date: 5/5/2026

DocuSigned by:  
*Doug Vincent-Lang*  
32E3FEFE58284DB

Douglas S. Vincent-Lang, Commissioner  
Department of Fish and Game

*April Simpson for*

FILING CERTIFICATION

I, Nancy Dahlstrom, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on May 18, 2026 at 3:15 p.m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.040 - 44.62.120.

*Nancy Dahlstrom*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor

Effective: June 17, 2026.

Register: 258, July 2026.

**FOR DELEGATION OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY**

**I, NANCY DAHLSTROM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, designate the following state employees to perform the Administrative Procedures Act filing functions of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor:**

**April Simpson, Regulations and Initiatives Specialist**

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed and affixed the Seal of the State of Alaska, in Juneau, on May 15th, 2023.**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nancy Dahlstrom", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**NANCY DAHLSTROM  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

**Title 5. Fish and Game.**

**Chapter 01. Subsistence Finfish Fishery.**

5 AAC 01.249(1) is amended to read:

(1) the department shall use the best available data, including preseason projections, mainstem river sonar passage estimates, test fisheries indices, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, [AND] fish passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects, **and traditional knowledge** to assess the run size of chum salmon; **in this paragraph, "traditional knowledge" has the meaning given in 5 AAC 96.621;**

(Eff. 7/3/94, Register 130; am 3/24/95, Register 133; am 3/30/95, Register 133; am 7/12/96, Register 139; am 6/10/98, Register 146; am 6/17/2001, Register 158; am 5/19/2004, Register 170; am 5/19/2010, Register 194; am 5/22/2016, Register 218; am 6/28/2019, Register 230; am 6/17/2020, Register 258)

**Authority:** AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258

**Chapter 05. Yukon Area.**

5 AAC 05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**5 AAC 05.361. Yukon River King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan. (a)**

The purpose of the Yukon River King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan is to provide management tools and guidelines to the department for the management of Yukon River salmon fisheries consistent with AS 16.05.258, 5 AAC 39.220, 5 AAC 39.222, the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and the seven-year agreement between this state and Canada to prohibit directed fishing for king salmon in the Yukon River main stem. While Yukon River king salmon are listed as a

stock of management concern, this plan is intended to ensure the sustained yield of king salmon stocks large enough to meet sustainable escapement goals, while allowing for harvest opportunity in the subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries, as follows:

(1) in addition to management measures specified in 5 AAC 05.360 and educational permits provided under 5 AAC 93.212, the department may relax subsistence fishery management measures in specific tributaries within the state if updated stock composition and run assessment data indicate areas where specific restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the established escapement goals will be met;

(2) a fish wheel operated under this subsection must be operated as specified in 5 AAC 05.362(j)(1) and (2).

(b) The provisions of this management plan will remain in effect while Yukon River king salmon are listed as a stock of management concern. The department may recommend removal of this designation at the first Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim Board of Fisheries meeting when either of the following conditions exist:

(1) the majority of the lower bounds of the established biological escapement goal and sustainable escapement goal ranges are met or exceeded in five consecutive years and are expected to be met in the future years;

(2) if annual yields or harvestable surpluses are below the historical range, and the department recommends changing the stock of concern designation to a stock of yield concern.

(Eff. 6/17/2026, Register 258)

**Authority:** AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**5 AAC 05.366. Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Stock of Concern Management**

**Plan.** (a) The purpose of the Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan is to provide the department with tools and guidelines for managing Yukon River salmon fisheries consistent with AS 16.05.258, 5 AAC 39.220, 5 AAC 39.222 and the Pacific Salmon Treaty. While Yukon River fall chum salmon are designated as a stock of management concern, this plan is intended to ensure run sizes at levels sufficient to meet established escapement goals, while also allowing for harvest opportunities in subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries, consistent with AS 16.05.258.

(b) When Yukon fall chum salmon are designated as a stock of management concern, the department shall implement the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan described in 5 AAC 01.249 from July 13 through December 31.

(c) The department shall prohibit commercial fisheries in the Yukon River drainage from July 13 through December 31 when the projected run size is less than 550,000 fall chum salmon as specified in 5 AAC 01.249(5).

(d) The department shall restrict sport fishing for Yukon fall chum salmon in the Yukon River drainage until subsistence opportunities are provided.

(e) The department shall manage personal use fisheries in accordance with 5 AAC 77.171 - 5 AAC 77.174 if subsistence opportunities are provided.

(f) If the department determines that a harvestable surplus is expected to exceed 300,000 fall chum salmon, the department shall provide subsistence fishing opportunities consistent with precautionary management principles of 5 AAC 39.222 to achieve the drainage-wide or tributary-specific escapement goals.

(g) In addition to management measures specified in 5 AAC 01.249 and educational permits provided under 5 AAC 93.212, the department may relax subsistence fishery management measures in specific tributaries within the state if updated stock composition and run assessment data indicate areas where specific restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the established escapement goals will be met. (Eff. 6 / 17 / 2026, Register 258)

**Authority:** AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258

### Chapter 21. Cook Inlet Area.

5 AAC 21.382(g) is amended to read:

(g) In the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District set gillnet commercial fishery,

(1) from June 20 through **July 31** [JUNE 30], when the [PRESEASON] forecast of king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer is greater than 14,250 fish, including harvest and forecast error, the Upper Subdistrict [SET GILLNET] fishery **may open to S04H CFEC permit holders** [BE OPENED] as follows:

**(A) the use of a beach seine, as described in 5 AAC 39.105(d)(6), is allowed as an alternative gear type for S04H CFEC permit holders;**

**(B) an S04H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit holder may operate not more than one beach seine;**

**(C) the maximum legal limit for a beach seine is 70 fathoms in length, 110 mesh depth, including border and chaffing strips, and three and one-half inch mesh size throughout; notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.332, a beach seine has no minimum length, depth, or mesh size requirements;**

**(D) fishing with a beach seine must occur from shore or waterline, with one end anchored on shore and the outside end set and retrieved back to the shore or waterline using a running line;**

**(E) openings will occur for two 12-hour periods per week, established by emergency order;**

**(F) retention of king and coho salmon is prohibited, except that a king or coho salmon that is mortally wounded or caught in a beach seine is subject to (i) and (j) of this section; in this subparagraph, "caught" means brought on board a vessel or removed from the water;**

**(G) the number of king or coho salmon released must be recorded on an ADF&G fish ticket under the disposition code for live release;**

**(H) a commercial dip net may not be operated within 600 feet of any part of a commercial beach seine, and a commercial beach seine may not be operated, in whole or in part, within 600 feet of any part of another commercial beach seine**

(A) EACH SETNET PERMIT HOLDER MAY USE UP TO ONE SET GILLNET THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29 MESHES IN DEPTH;

(B) IS OPEN FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO EIGHT-HOUR PERIODS;

(C) WITH A 48-HOUR CONTINUOUS CLOSURE PER WEEK, BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY;

(D) FISHERY OPENINGS WILL BE BASED UPON SELDOVIA DISTRICT TIDE TABLES BY SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

(i) NINILCHIK RIVER MOUTH TO KASILOF RIVER MOUTH  
(STAT AREAS 244-21, 244-22), THREE HOURS LATER THAN THE  
SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(ii) KASILOF RIVER MOUTH TO KENAI RIVER MOUTH  
(STAT AREA 244-31), FOUR HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA  
DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(iii) OPENING TIMES WILL BE BASED ON NOAA  
CERTIFIED TIDE TABLES;

(2) FROM JULY 15 THROUGH JULY 27, WHEN THE INSEASON  
PROJECTION OF KING SALMON 75 CM MID EYE TO TAIL FORK AND LONGER IS  
GREATER THAN 14,250 FISH, INCLUDING HARVEST AND PROJECTION ERROR, THE  
UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY MAY BE OPENED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) EACH SETNET PERMIT HOLDER MAY USE UP TO ONE SET  
GILLNET THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29  
MESHES IN DEPTH;

(B) IS OPEN FOR NOT MORE THAN FOUR EIGHT-HOUR PERIODS;

(C) WITH A 48-HOUR CONTINUOUS CLOSURE PER WEEK,  
BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY;

(D) FISHERY OPENINGS WILL BE BASED UPON SELDOVIA  
DISTRICT TIDE TABLES BY SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

(i) NINILCHIK RIVER MOUTH TO KASILOF RIVER MOUTH  
(STAT AREAS 244-21, 244-22), THREE HOURS LATER THAN THE  
SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(ii) KASILOF RIVER MOUTH TO KENAI RIVER MOUTH  
(STAT AREAS 244-31, 244-32), FOUR HOURS LATER THAN THE  
SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(iii) KENAI RIVER MOUTH TO BOULDER POINT (STAT  
AREAS 244-41, 244-42), FIVE HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA  
DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(iv) OPENING TIMES WILL BE BASED ON NOAA  
CERTIFIED TIDE TABLES;

(3) FROM JULY 28 THROUGH AUGUST 15, WHEN THE INSEASON  
PROJECTION OF KING SALMON 75 CM MID EYE TO TAIL FORK AND LONGER IS  
GREATER THAN 14,250 FISH, ACCOUNTING FOR ANTICIPATED HARVEST,  
PROJECTION ERROR AND INSEASON RUN STRENGTH, THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT  
SET GILLNET FISHERY MAY BE OPENED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) EACH SETNET PERMIT HOLDER MAY USE UP TO ONE SET  
GILLNET THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29  
MESHES IN DEPTH;

(B) IS OPEN FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO EIGHT-HOUR PERIODS;

(C) WITH A 48-HOUR CONTINUOUS CLOSURE PER WEEK,  
BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY;

(D) FISHERY OPENINGS WILL BE BASED UPON SELDOVIA  
DISTRICT TIDE TABLES BY SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

(i) NINILCHIK RIVER MOUTH TO KASILOF RIVER MOUTH  
(STAT AREAS 244-21, 244-22), THREE HOURS LATER THAN THE

SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(ii) KASILOF RIVER MOUTH TO KENAI RIVER MOUTH  
(STAT AREAS 244-31, 244-32), FOUR HOURS LATER THAN THE  
SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(iii) KENAI RIVER MOUTH TO BOULDER POINT (STAT  
AREAS 244-41, 244-42), FIVE HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA  
DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(iv) OPENING TIMES WILL BE BASED ON NOAA CERTIFIED TIDE  
TABLES];

**(2)** [(4)] in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 21.365 [,] and 5 AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), (2)(B), and (3)(B), commercial fishing periods will be based on the abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers;

**(3) from** [(5) FROM] June 20 through July 31, [;]

(A) [ALLOW FOR] the use of dip nets **is allowed** as an alternative gear type for holders of **an** [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) **an** [A] S04H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit holder may operate not more than four dip nets at a time, **and** each dip net must be operated by either the permit holder or an **ADF&G** [ADFG] licensed crewmember;

(D) retention of king and coho salmon is prohibited, except that a king salmon that is brought aboard the vessel or to shore is subject to **(i) and (j)** [(i) — (j)] of this section;

(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;

(F) the number of king or coho salmon that are released must be recorded on an ADF&G fish ticket under the disposition code for live release.

5 AAC 21.382 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(n) If the forecast or inseason projection of king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer is less than 14,250 fish, including harvest and forecast error, the commissioner may issue not more than 10 cost-neutral commissioner permits under the authority of AS 16.05.050(a)(9) for the beach seine gear type to S04H salmon permit holders registered in the Upper Subdistrict. (Eff. 6/8/2024, Register 250; am 7/10/2025, Register 255; am 6 / 17 / 2026, Register 258)

**Authority:** AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251

[EDITOR'S NOTE: AS OF REGISTER 255 (OCTOBER 2025), THE REGULATIONS ATTORNEY, ACTING UNDER AS 44.62.125(b)(6), MADE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN 5 AAC 21.382(g)(2)(B).]

**Chapter 96. Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations.**

5 AAC 96 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**5 AAC 96.621. Board of Fisheries traditional knowledge policy.** (a) The Board of Fisheries will incorporate local knowledge and traditional knowledge as an aspect of best available science to inform Board of Fisheries regulation adoption.

(b) In this section,

(1) "local knowledge" means a way of knowing developed from the observations and personal and shared experiences of people living, working, harvesting, and processing fish or game in a specific place; "local knowledge" may be obtained rapidly rather than generationally;

(2) "traditional knowledge" means a way of knowing that is unique to a given culture or society, often through language, that encompasses a worldview that defines specific relationships between humans and nonhuman attributes of the world; "traditional knowledge" includes

(A) knowledge that derives from personal experiences and the cumulative experiences of a person's forbearers, including generational knowledge; and

(B) knowledge that is characterized by a long time scale that is local in scope and that may provide a counterpoint to more broad-based, scientifically produced knowledge. (Eff. 6 / 17 / 2026, Register 258)

**Authority:** AS 16.05.251 AS 16.05.258