Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director

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Advisory Announcement

***For Immediate Release:* July 22, 2026**
Time: 1:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Madison Hardwig and Sam Decker
Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists
(907) 459-7213 or (907) 543-2433

Kuskokwim Bay Fishery Announcement #11

Districts 4 and 5 Commercial Fishery

Emergency Order #3-S-WB-10-26

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for commercial fishermen in District W4 & W5, Kuskokwim Bay.

There is one commercial processor registered to buy in the Kuskokwim Bay Area; Please contact Jon Saarheim with WildFish Marketing at 907-236-6024 with questions regarding selling your catch. <u>It is the commercial fisherman's responsibility to ensure that they have a market for their catch.</u>

Fishermen must have their CFEC permit valid for the 2026 season and a government issued I.D. or Driver's License. All crewmembers must have a 2026 commercial crewmember's license or a 2026 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

<u>Districts 4 & 5, Quinhagak and Goodnews</u>

Commercial fishing will open in Districts 4 & 5, Quinhagak and Goodnews, for three **12-hour periods during the following dates and times:**

- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 23
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 24
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, July 25

In Districts 4 & 5, **subsistence fishing will be closed during the following times:**

- 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 23, 2026 until 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 26, 2026

District 4 consists of the Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the northernmost edge of the mouth of the Weelung Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River (Figure 1).

District 5 consists of that portion of Goodnews Bay east of a line from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles south on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles north on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay and west of a line between the mouth of Ukfigag Creek at lat 59° 04.17' N., long 161° 36' W., and the mouth of the Tunulik River at lat 59° 08' N., long 161° 37' W (Figure 2).

***As a reminder*:** Gillnets must be 6-inch or less mesh gillnets and may not exceed 50 fathoms in length and not more than 45 meshes deep.

Fishers in Districts 4 & 5 are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for their own use. Fish retained for personal use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishers are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone, this restriction applies at all tide stages.

The department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and announcement of additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska website (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 and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:
ADF&G: Madison Hardwig (907) 459-7213 or Sam Decker (907) 459-7295, (907) 543-2433

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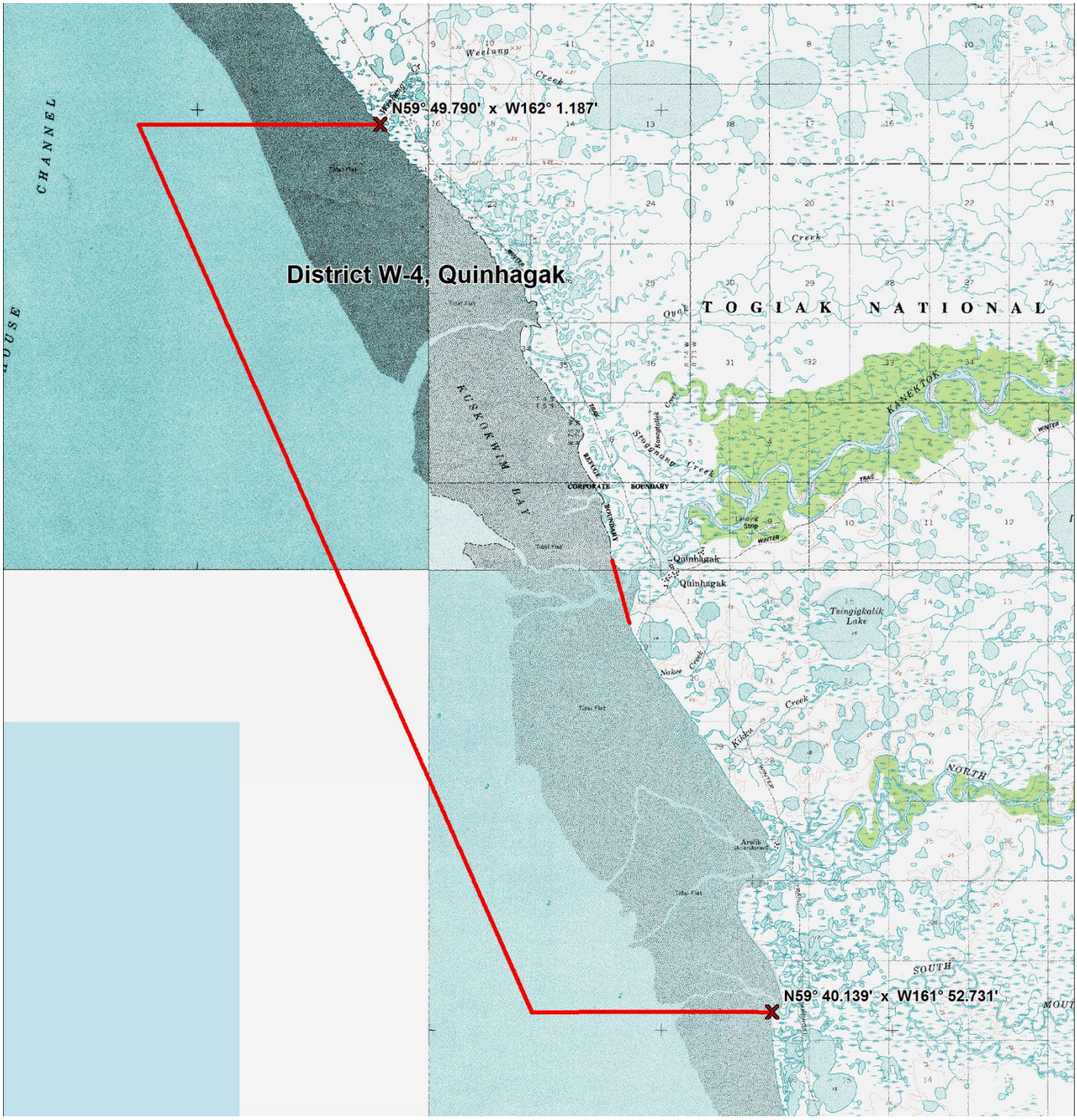

Figure 1. District 4, Quinhagak.

Figure 2. District 5, Goodnews Bay.