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Aerial photo of the Situk/Lost/Ahrnklin Estuary taken in 2016. Area shorelines are continually changing. This graphic is for illustrative purposes only. Check with ADF&G for actual in-season restrictions.

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HOW DOES SET-NETTING WORK?

Set netting is the mainstay of life for fishing families in Yakutat. Salmon are harvested from a net anchored on both ends. Depending on debris, currents and drifting logs, a net only catches fish a portion of each tide. Just like hook and line fishermen, set net fishermen only fish part of each day—not around the clock. The nets are 120 feet long covering only a small part of the estuary. This allows many fish to continue upstream into the Situk River, even while nets are in the water.

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WHEN ARE THE NETS IN?

The set net fishery, like the sport fishery, is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The commercial fishery runs from the third week of June generally through the second week of October. It opens Sunday through Tuesday during the sockeye season, and Sunday through Wednesday during the coho season, unless extended due to abundant fish returns.

Anyone who owns a Yakutat set net permit may participate. A few nets may be seen on Fridays and Saturdays when the subsistence fishery is open to Alaska resident families to fish for food and customary use. It is a brief opening with set times and is not part of the commercial fishery. With fisheries management and stewardship in the subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries, we can all share in the bounty of the Situk River.



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