ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES 
NEWS RELEASE 

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2019 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 22  
Fall Update # 4, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery  
Districts Affected: Yukon Area 

The 2019 fall chum salmon preseason projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, has been revised to a range of 700,000-800,000 fish. Run sizes within this range are expected to provide for escapement, subsistence needs, and a limited commercial fishery. Adjusting for the overlap of summer chum salmon into the fall season, the fall chum salmon run is estimated to be 304,000 through August 11 which appears to be near the historical median. The fall chum salmon that entered the Yukon River on August 1 are expected to be near Nulato August 14, Ruby August 16, Tanana/Huslia August 20, Rampart August 22, Fort Yukon August 30, and the Canadian border around September 9. Fall chum salmon from this group would be in the Tanana River near Manley around September 1 and Fairbanks September 5. 

The coho salmon outlook is for an average return. The primary parent year for coho salmon this year’s run is 2015. In the lower river projects, the coho salmon run is approaching the first quarter point this week however they are presently showing in low numbers. The run is expected to improve later in August. 

Fall Assessment Projects 
Lower Yukon River Cooperative Fall Drift Test Fishing / ADF&G, YDFDA 
The cumulative CPUE through August 11 was 556.15 for chum salmon, which is below the historical median of 750.33 for this date. The cumulative CPUE for coho salmon as of August 11 was 11.42 which is below the median of 80.59 however it is early in the run. The first quarter point of the coho salmon run is typically around August 13 at this project. 

Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing / Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council 
The cumulative CPUE through August 11 was 1,143.86 for chum salmon, which is above the historical median of 1,106.77 for this date. The cumulative CPUE for coho salmon was 54.15
which is below the historical median of 145.38 as of August 11. The first quarter point of the coho salmon run is typically around August 16 at this project.

**Sonar Project near Pilot Station / ADF&G**

The cumulative chum salmon passage estimate from July 19 through August 11 was 455,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 339,000 fish for this date. The cumulative coho salmon passage was 6,438 fish, which is below the median of 14,817 through August 11. The first quarter point of the coho salmon run is typically around August 16 at this project.

**Teediinjik (Chandalar) River Sonar / USFWS**

The sonar project began operations on August 8 and through August 11 has cumulative passage of 922 fall chum salmon which is below the median passage of 2,062 for this date. This level of passage is not unexpected due to the late arrival of fall chum salmon.

**Age Composition Fall Season / ADF&G**

The preliminary chum salmon age composition from the LYTF 6-inch drift gillnets indicates the run is dominated by age-4 fish. The 2019 preliminary proportions of age-4 is 74%, well above the average of 61% and age-5 is 25% which is below average (37%), as of August 6. Females represent 45% of the fish sampled (n=469), which is below the average of 56%, as of August 10. The overall slight increase in age-5 fish and females is expected with the arrival of the fall run components.

**Chum Salmon Stock Identification**

Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) on chum salmon from July 19–26 that passed the sonar near Pilot Station, contained approximately 88% summer chum and 12% fall chum salmon. The summer chum salmon stocks in the sample contained primarily Lower River stocks at 64%, Middle River stocks at 11% and Tanana River stocks at 13%. The samples from July 27 through August 9 are at the lab being analyzed and results will be available in the daily update [http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate](http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate) later this week. This group of fish is expected to include a higher proportion of fall chum salmon.

**Fall Season Management Strategy:**

Yukon River Districts 1-5 have switched to fall season management. District 6 will transition to fall season management as the fall chum salmon migration reaches that area. The fall chum salmon commercial fishing season is open in Districts 1-5. Commercial periods have announced in Districts 1 and 2. There are currently no registered buyers in Districts 3-5. Commercial fishermen should stand by for announcements regarding commercial openings in their districts.

As a reminder to subsistence fishermen, dip nets are a legal gear type for subsistence salmon fishing. Subsistence salmon fishermen may continue using gillnets, dip nets, and fish wheels. Personal use fishing in Subdistrict 6-C of the Tanana River may only use set gillnets and fish wheels.

**Summer Season Assessment**

Summer season assessment in the U.S. is nearly complete. The escapement goals for Chinook and summer chum salmon on the East Fork Andreafsky River were exceeded and the escapement goal for Chinook salmon on the Salcha River was met. The drainage-wide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1.2 million summer chum salmon was exceeded. The Chinook salmon run is likely at least 2 days later than normal, and, as of August 11, the cumulative Chinook salmon passage at the Eagle
sonar is approximately 44,600. Chinook salmon passage to date at the Eagle sonar likely represents around 95-97% of the expected total passage at the project.

**Summer Assessment Projects**

**Eagle Sonar / ADF&G**

The Eagle sonar began operations on July 1. Chinook salmon passage, as of August 11, is estimated to be 44,615 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 56,506 fish for this date. The Interim Management Escapement Goal for Canadian-origin Chinook salmon is 42,500–55,000 fish. The goal is assessed post-season using the Eagle sonar count minus the estimated U.S. and Canadian harvest of Chinook salmon above the sonar.

The age composition of 185 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Eagle sonar test fishery, through July 24, was 10% age-4, 52% age-5, 36% age-6, and 1% age-7 fish. The proportions of Chinook salmon that were age-4 and age-5 were above average, while the proportion of fish that were age-6 was slightly below average. The proportion of fish that were female, 45%, was above average.

**Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

**Coastal District** (Naskonat Peninsula to 1 mile south of Black River, including the marine waters near Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**District 1** (Black River, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik and Emmonak):

Subsistence fishing is open for the fall season 24 hours a day, 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Due to a commercial period, subsistence salmon fishing, including all gillnets in the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers, will close at 1:30 a.m. Monday, August 12, and reopen at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 13.

Subsistence fishermen must remove both tips of the tail fin of Chinook salmon before concealing from plain view or leaving the fishing site.

**District 2** (Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary’s, Pilot Station and Marshall):

Subsistence fishing is open for the fall season 24 hours a day, 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Subsistence fishermen must remove both tips of the tail fin of Chinook salmon before concealing from plain view or leaving the fishing site.

**District 3** (Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, fish wheels, and dip nets.

**District 4** (Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena, and Ruby):
Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, fish wheels, and dip nets.

As a reminder, fishermen in District 4 may drift gillnet for all salmon; there are no longer dates when drifting is discontinued, and there is no longer a gillnet mesh depth restriction in state or federal waters.

**Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (Tanana and Rampart):**

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, fish wheels, and dip nets for two 48-hour periods per week from:

**Subdistrict 5-D (including the Porcupine River, other adjacent tributaries, and communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle):**

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open from 10 a.m. Friday, August 9 until 10 p.m. Monday, August 12, with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, fish wheels, and dip nets.

**Effective 10 p.m. Monday, August 12, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets, fish wheels, and dip nets.**

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in portions of Subdistricts 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

**Innoko, Koyukuk and Kantishna rivers:**

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including Manley, Minto, and Nenana):**

Subsistence fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the regulatory schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

- 6 p.m. Fridays to noon Sundays
- 6 p.m. Mondays to noon Wednesdays

**Old Minto Area:**

Subsistence fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the regulatory schedule of five days per week from:

- 6 p.m. Fridays until 6 p.m. Wednesdays

**Upper Tanana Area (from the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank, and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank, upstream to the Tanana River headwaters, including Dot Lake, Tok, Tanacross, Northway):**

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

**Subdistrict 6-C Personal Use Salmon (from the Wood River upstream to the Salcha River, including Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):**
Personal Use salmon fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the regulatory schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

- 6 p.m. Fridays to noon Sundays
- 6 p.m. Mondays to noon Wednesdays

Fishermen may only use set gillnets and fish wheels in the Personal Use salmon fishery.

In the Tanana River up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A and 6-B), and in the Upper Tanana River Area, a subsistence permit is required for salmon fishing. A personal use permit is required to fish for salmon and other species from the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the mouth of the Salcha River (Subdistrict 6-C).

A subsistence permit is required for northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats. Subsistence harvest calendars and subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fairbanks office or online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial fishing for summer chum salmon is open concurrent with subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 6-B of the Tanana River. In order to spread harvest out through the summer chum salmon run, the processor will buy a limited number of fish per period. Commercial fishermen should coordinate with the buyer regarding scheduling deliveries and the amount of fish the processor will purchase. Chinook salmon may be retained for personal use. The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest through August 7 in Subdistrict 6-B is less than 1,100 summer chum salmon.

The fall chum directed commercial fishery began July 16 in the Lower Yukon. The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest through August 11 in District 1 is 47,263 fall chum salmon and 1,989 coho salmon; District 2 is 40,343 fall chum salmon and 2,170 coho salmon.

Commercial Fishing Periods:

District 1:

Commercial fishing will open with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets:

Set Net Only Area: 9-hour period on Monday, August 12 from 1:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Remainder of District 1: 6-hour period on Monday, August 12 from 4:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

District 2:

Fishermen should standby for announcements regarding further commercial openings.

Subdistrict 6-B:

Commercial fishing for summer chum salmon is open for two 42-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels from:

- 6 p.m. Fridays to 12 p.m. noon Sundays
- 6 p.m. Mondays to 12 p.m. noon Wednesdays

This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To reach the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks call 456-0406.
News releases, test fish catches, and sonar counts are also available on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/

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