

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2019 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 29**

#### **Porcupine River Subsistence Fishing Closure**

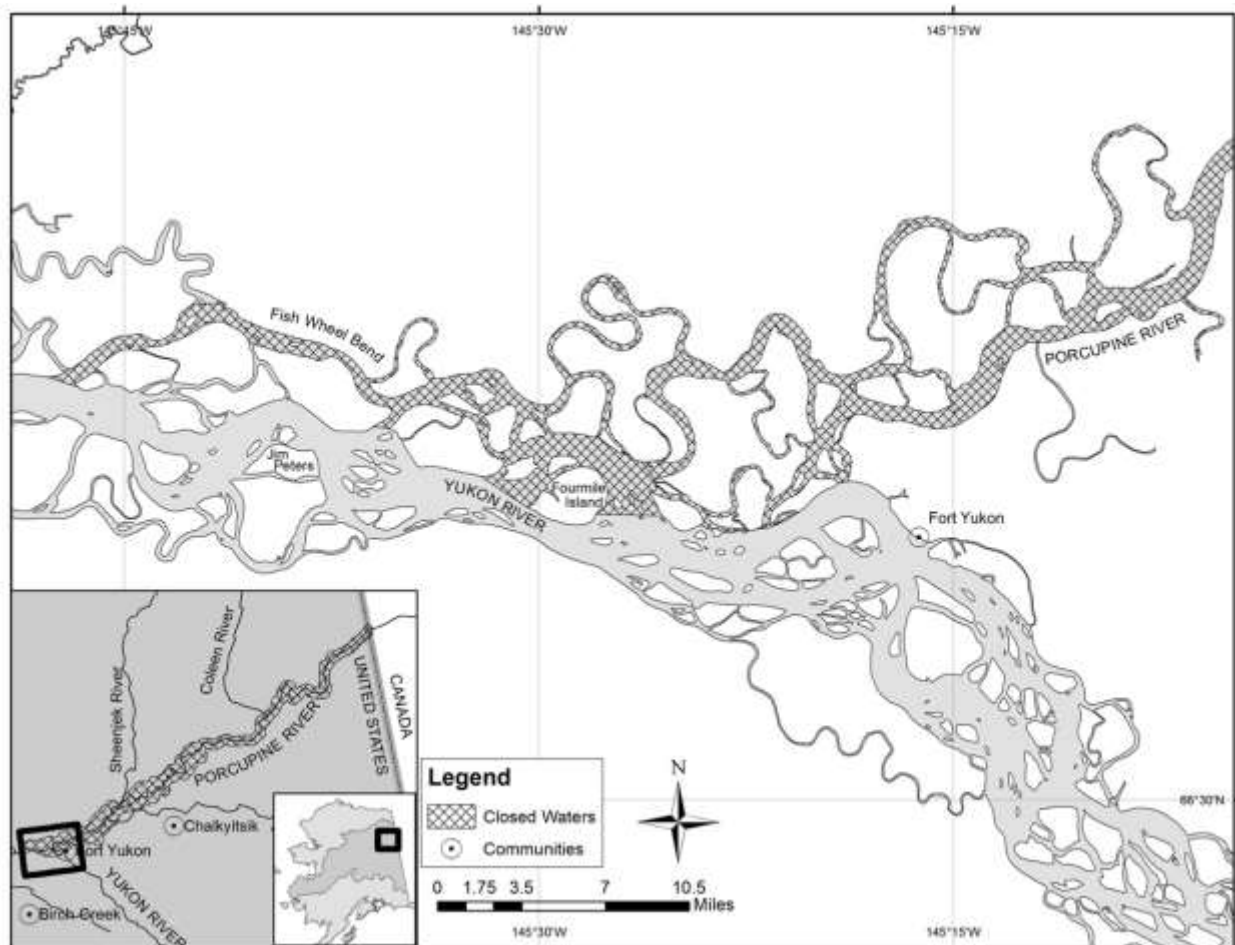
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The abundance of fall chum salmon in the upper Porcupine River has been low in recent years when compared to other stocks in the Yukon River drainage. Fall chum salmon escapements into the Canadian Fishing Branch River, a tributary of the Porcupine River, have fallen short of meeting the interim management escapement goal (IMEG) of 22,000 to 49,000 fish agreed upon by U.S. and Canadian representatives. Based on the inseason projection of 750,000-850,000 fall chum salmon, it is unlikely the lower end of the IMEG will be achieved in 2019. Like actions taken in recent years to improve fall chum salmon escapement to the spawning grounds in Canada, subsistence salmon fishing in the Alaska portion of the mainstem Porcupine River is being closed. Managers will closely monitor fall chum salmon escapement into the Fishing Branch River throughout the season. If inseason information from the mainstem Porcupine River sonar and from the Fishing Branch River escapement monitoring projects indicates the fall chum salmon goal will be met, the department may relax subsistence fishing restrictions.

The following subsistence salmon fishing management action will occur in the U.S. portion of the Porcupine River. This includes those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River (see attached map).

**Effective 12:00 noon Friday, August 23, subsistence salmon fishing in the Porcupine River, including those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River (see attached map), is closed until further notice.** During the closures, fishermen may fish for non-salmon species using gillnet gear with a mesh size of 4 inches or less. Subsistence salmon fishing in tributaries such as the Sheenjek, Black, Coleen, and Salmon Trout rivers will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 456-0406.



Map showing the areas of the Porcupine River affected by the subsistence salmon fishing schedule, its confluence with the Yukon River.

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