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Advisory Announcement

Released: July 14, 2020

CONTACT: Jeff Estensen, Area Management Biologist (907) 459-7274 Toll free fishing schedule and counts: (866) 479-7387 In Fairbanks fishing schedule hotline: 459-7387

2020 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #1 Coastal District and Districts 1-3 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Yukon River District 1 will transition to fall season management beginning July 16. The remaining upriver districts and subdistricts will transition to fall season management as the fall chum salmon migration reaches those areas. Assessment projects will begin counting fall chum salmon on July 16 at the Lower Yukon Test Fishery, July 18 at the Mountain Village Test Fishery, and July 19 at the mainstem sonar near the community of Pilot Station.

The 2020 fall chum salmon preseason projection based on the relationship between summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon is for a run size of less than 450,000 fish. The preseason projection does not meet the threshold of 550,000 fish needed to allow commercial fishing. Therefore, the department does not anticipate any commercial openings to begin the fall season. The department will monitor the run to determine if any adjustments to the subsistence fishing schedule are needed to meet escapement and treaty objectives.

The 2020 fall chum and coho salmon seasons will be managed out of the ADF&G Fairbanks field office. ADF&G staff will be available, Mondays through Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to provide fishermen aid and services over the phone by calling (907) 267-2385. Fishing schedules, daily sonar counts, and daily test fishing catches can be obtained by calling toll-free (866) 479-7387.

Announcements will be shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG

Upon transitioning to fall season management, subsistence fishing schedules in the Lower Yukon Area districts are as follows:

<u>Coastal District</u> (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 1 nautical mile south of the Black River, which includes Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay)

Will transition to fall season management at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, July 16, and remain on the current subsistence fishing schedule of seven days per week, 24 hours per day with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

District 1

Will transition to fall season management at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, July 16, and remain on the current subsistence fishing schedule of two 36-hour periods per week, with the use of 7.5-inch mesh or smaller gillnets, from:

8:00 p.m. Mondays to 8:00 a.m. Wednesdays 8:00 p.m. Thursdays to 8:00 a.m. Saturdays

District 2

Will transition to fall season management at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, July 19, and remain on the current fishing schedule of two 36-hour periods per week, with the use of 7.5-inch mesh or smaller gillnets, from:

8:00 p.m. Wednesdays to 8:00 a.m. Fridays 8:00 p.m. Sundays to 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays

District 3

Will transition to fall season management at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, July 20, and remain on the current fishing schedule of two 36-hour periods per week with the use of 7.5-inch mesh or smaller gillnets, from:

8:00 p.m. Wednesdays to 8:00 a.m. Fridays 8:00 p.m. Sundays to 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays

Innoko River:

Subsistence fishing will remain on the current schedule of seven days per week, 24 hours per day with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, only gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target non-salmon species.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial and subsistence fishing is essential and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/.



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.

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