

Division of Sport Fish

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Advisory Announcement

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Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishing Schedule: Week of July 19

The Chitina Subdistrict will open for 144 hours during the week of July 19:

- **Open:** 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 19 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 20.
- **Closed:** 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 21 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 21
- **Open:** 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 22 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 25.

The Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net fishery **remains closed to the retention of king salmon**. King salmon incidentally taken must be released immediately and may not be removed from the water before being released.

As a reminder, the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* and the Statewide Personal Use Fishing Regulations state that:

- The annual limit is 25 salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder.
- Personal use fishers must possess **both** their Chitina Personal Use fishery permit and a valid resident sport fishing license when fishing. **Steelhead cannot be kept** and must be returned to the water unharmed.
- You must record your harvest on the permit **immediately**.
- The tips of the tail of personal use caught fish must be clipped **immediately** upon landing a fish.
- **Immediately** is defined as before concealing the salmon from plain view or transporting the salmon from the fishing site. **Fishing site** means the location where the fish was removed from the water and became part of the permit holder's bag limit.

The Copper River personal use fishery is managed under direction of the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 77.591). The plan establishes the season from June 7 through September 30 and directs the department to establish weekly periods based on Miles Lake sonar counts. During July 5 – 11, there were 75,947 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 36,659 salmon, which results in a surplus of 39,288 salmon. Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous five-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to justify an increase of 78 hours above the preseason schedule to 144 hours of fishing time during the week of July 19 – 25.

Additionally, ADF&G is reminding fishery users that all 2021 Chitina Personal Use Salmon Fishery permit participation and harvest reporting must be completed online at

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/harvest>. Online reporting is required regardless if you purchased the permit through the ADF&G online store or through a vendor. Returning permits by mail or hand-delivery is no longer an acceptable means to report. Also, **permit holders who fail to report** Chitina Personal Use Salmon Fishery harvest online by the October 15 reporting deadline **will be denied a permit for the fishery the next calendar year**.

All residents of Alaska qualify to participate in this personal use fishery. You must have a Chitina Personal Use Salmon Fishery Permit and a resident Alaska sport fishing license when dipnetting. Both dip net permits and fishing licenses can be obtained online at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>. A \$15 fee is charged for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery permit. Revenue from the fee supports the sanitation services at the fishery and trail maintenance from O'Brien Creek to Haley Creek.

The department urges dipnetters to respect the rights of private landowners in the area and familiarize themselves with the land ownership in the area before fishing. For information on access across private lands contact Chitina Native Corporation at (907) 823-2223 (<https://chitinanative.com/obrien-creek-permit-program>) or Ahtna, Inc at (907) 822-3476 (<https://www.ahtna.com/lands/land-permits/>)

Information regarding the fishery can be found at the ADF&G web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreaInteriorChitina.main>. This site provides information regarding the Upper Copper River fisheries including: fishery descriptions and summaries, maps of the subdistricts, a listing of vendors that carry the permits, and links to the sonar numbers and fishing schedule emergency orders.

The current fishing schedule is announced on the Chitina Fishery information line at 822-5224 (Glennallen), 459-7382 (Fairbanks), and 267-2511 (Anchorage). Please contact an information phone line prior to planning your trip to Chitina to ensure that the fishery will be open when you arrive. If you have any questions regarding the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery, please contact the ADF&G office in Glennallen at (907) 822-3309.

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