



Advisory Announcement

Released: August 25, 2021

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2021 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #15

Coastal District, Districts 1-3 and Subdistrict 4-A Lower Subsistence Fishing Schedule

The Yukon River fall chum and coho salmon runs are projecting to be the lowest on record (1974–2020). The fall chum salmon run is projected to be 82,000 fish compared to a historical run size of 868,000 fish based on median timing. The coho salmon run size is projected to be 25,000-34,000 fish, based on median and late timing, compared to a historical average run index of 240,000 fish. Preliminary data from assessment projects indicate that both species have the smallest fish lengths observed in their respective datasets. Due to extremely weak salmon runs, the need to allow salmon passage to spawning grounds and the higher probability of encountering small-bodied salmon in the current allowable gear, nonsalmon subsistence fishing is being adjusted to provide additional protection for migrating salmon. Continued cooperation is appreciated during these times of conservation for fall chum and coho salmon.

While there is a need to reduce time and gear to protect salmon, additional opportunity for nonsalmon subsistence fishing is being provided as follows. Manned fish wheels may be used to fish for nonsalmon, but all fall chum salmon must be released alive and coho salmon are also recommended to be released alive given the historic low run size.

Subsistence Management Actions

Coastal District, Districts 1-3, Subdistrict 4-A Lower (including all lakes, sloughs and tributaries):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with dip nets and hook and line gear to target pink, sockeye and coho salmon, while releasing Chinook and chum salmon alive immediately. Subsistence salmon fishing with other gear types remains closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Additionally, other legal gear to take nonsalmon species includes hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, spear, and hook and line with a rod or pole.

Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, August 28 fishermen may no longer use dip nets and hook and line to target any salmon species and the use of 4-inch gillnets to target nonsalmon will be on a reduced schedule. These measures are to reduce incidental harvest of salmon. Additional manned fish wheel opportunity to target nonsalmon is being provided.

The following subsistence management actions will be in place:

Fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, (60 feet in length or shorter) is being reduced to the following schedules:

- Coastal District (Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay): two 48-hour periods per week from Saturdays 8 p.m. to Mondays 8 p.m. and from Wednesdays 8 p.m. to Fridays 8 p.m.

- Districts 1-3 (Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross and Shageluk): two 36-hour periods per week from Saturdays 8 p.m. to Mondays 8 a.m. and from Wednesdays 8 p.m. to Fridays 8 a.m.
- Subdistrict 4-A Lower (Anvik and Grayling): two 48-hour periods per week from Saturdays 8 p.m. to Mondays 8 p.m. and from Wednesdays 8 p.m. to Fridays 8 p.m.

All gillnets must be removed from the water between these open fishing periods. Fishermen are reminded to set 4-inch gillnets in areas where nonsalmon species are abundant to avoid incidentally harvesting salmon.

All other nonsalmon gear: open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week:

Legal gear to take nonsalmon species includes hand line, longline, fyke net, spear, and hook and line with a rod or pole. **Subsistence fishermen may use dip nets to target nonsalmon but all fall chum salmon must be released alive immediately. The live release of coho salmon from dip nets is also strongly recommended for conservation given the historic low run size.**

Fish wheels (manned): open 7 days per week from 8 am to 9 pm:

Subsistence fishermen may use **manned fish wheels to target nonsalmon**; all fall chum salmon must be released alive immediately and must bypass any livebox structure. The live release of coho salmon is also strongly recommended for conservation given the historic low run size.

For Yukon Area advisory announcements and fish counts, visit www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG. To receive advisory announcements by email, sign up at www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov.



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 Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager,

Holly Carroll, please call 907-351-3029.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, subsistence and commercial fishing is considered essential and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

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