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## Advisory Announcement

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### **2022 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #4** **Summer Update # 1, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery** Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2022 Chinook salmon run size is forecasted to be similar to the 2021 run and unlikely to be strong enough to meet escapement objectives or provide any surplus for harvest. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach this season, subsistence fishing will be closed during the trickle and first pulse of the Chinook salmon run. Closures in each district are based on average swim speeds. The forecast for summer chum salmon is very poor and there is not a projected surplus to allow for harvests, so salmon closures will likely remain in effect through much of the summer season, unless run abundance indicates escapement goals might be met.

The inseason salmon management teleconferences hosted by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) are held Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. The first teleconference will be next week on June 7. This year the calls will focus on relaying assessment and management updates and local concerns. There is important fisheries research being done and the YRDFA teleconference is a great way to discuss all aspects of Yukon River fisheries and to connect with other communities, research projects, and managers all the way up the Yukon River. To participate, call 800-315-6338, and enter code: YUKON# (98566#).

### **Assessment Projects**

#### Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF)/ ADF&G and YDFDA

LYTF drift gillnet operations began on May 26 at Big Eddy for Chinook and summer chum salmon. As of May 30, no salmon have been caught. Crews have been drifting fishing gear and snag nets to clear the drift zones and are no longer encountering ice from breakup. Middle Mouth drifts will begin early June for both species. LYTF Big Eddy set net will be deployed in early June.

The Middle Mouth set gillnet site is not being operated to reduce Chinook salmon mortalities, but drift gillnet operations using 8.25-inch mesh have been added to obtain Chinook salmon CPUE data from that location. In the South Mouth at Big Eddy, set gillnet operations for Chinook salmon and drift gillnet operations for summer chum and Chinook salmon are unchanged. The Big Eddy Chinook salmon drift CPUE values can be compared to historical averages but the set net data from Big Eddy should not be compared to historical data because it does not include any Middle Mouth set net data this season.

Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to community members by Tribal councils, or on a first come, first-served basis from a public dock. Chinook salmon test fish mortalities will be sampled for genetics, otoliths, liver, stomach contents, intestine, eggs, and muscle biopsy. Measurements will include age from scales, sex, length, and fat content. These samples and

measurements will be sent to researchers working on understanding salmon health and body condition. In addition to LYTF, other test fish projects in collaboration with ADF&G and the USFWS are also collecting tissue samples (heart, kidney, eggs, blood draw) from Chinook salmon to test for fish diseases and other fish health related research. Heart tissues are being sampled to test for Ichthyophonosis and the kidney is being tested for proliferative kidney disease (PKD). Results will be available post season.

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

The Pilot Station sonar is setting up and will begin counting this week.

#### ADF&G and USFWS projects that will begin operations later this season when fish arrive in the area:

Anvik Sonar, Eagle Sonar, Salcha and Chena River Tower /Sonar (ADF&G); Andraefsky Weir, Gisasa Weir, and Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar (USFWS).

Henshaw Weir (TCC) is not expected to operate this year due to necessary repairs.

#### **Current Subsistence Management Actions**

Subsistence salmon fishing is being closed to protect Chinook and summer chum salmon as they begin to migrate upriver. The opportunity to harvest nonsalmon with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is available during salmon closures; however, 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets are being restricted to 60-feet or shorter length. **If Chinook or chum salmon are caught alive, they should be released, but may be retained if dead.** Fishermen should fish this nonsalmon gear in areas where resident species are more likely to be encountered.

Additionally, other legal gear types to take nonsalmon during subsistence salmon fishing closures include hook and line with a rod or pole (in state waters up to and including the Nulato River), hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net and spear. As a reminder, all Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive from these gears. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained if caught.

**Coastal District and District 1** (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

**Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, June 2, salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet maximum length.**

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

**Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 4, salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet maximum length.**

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

Subsistence fishing is currently open.

**Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet maximum length.**

**Innoko River** (community of Shageluk):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Subdistrict 4-A Lower** (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, including Grayling and Anvik):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Subdistrict 4-A Upper** (from Stink Creek upstream to the tip of Cone Point, including Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Koyukuk River** (including Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, and Bettles):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman. Gillnet gear in the permit area may only be used from August 20 to June 30 and must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size.

**District 5** (including Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Central, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

In Birch Creek, and the subsistence area of Beaver Creek below Moose Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 3 inches.

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.

**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 currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Kantishna River:**

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Old Minto Area:**

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Upper Tanana Area** (the Tanana River from the confluence with 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):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Subdistrict 6-C Salmon** (Personal use fishery from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

By regulation, Personal Use fishing is open on a schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

**6 p.m. Mondays to 12 p.m. (noon) Wednesdays**

**6 p.m. Fridays to 12 p.m. (noon) Sundays**

**Personal use fishing will be closed once salmon arrive in the area.**

## Personal Use Whitefish and Sucker Fishing

**Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area** (a portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Wood River upstream to the mouth of the Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank, which includes Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, and Delta Junction):

Fishing for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, subject to permit stipulations.

In the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A and 6-B), a subsistence permit is required for salmon fishing. A personal use salmon permit and valid sport fishing license are required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C. A personal use whitefish and sucker permit and valid sport fishing license are required in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.

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 907-459-7274 or online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/).

## Federal Special Action

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have coordinated on this weekly update announcement. For information regarding Federal subsistence fishing regulations contact Holly Carroll at 907-351-3029.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the USFWS.

The Emmonak USFWS office is not open. To reach the USFWS Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager call Holly Carroll at 907-351-3029. Federal Special Actions will be posted on [www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions).



ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on [www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/](http://www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/) and shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG](https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG).