



## Advisory Announcement

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### **2022 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #14**

#### **Summer Update #4, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Chinook salmon observed to date in the lower portion of the Yukon River are part of an early trickle of fish and a first pulse has yet to be detected at the LYTF or at Pilot Station Sonar. At this time, counts of Chinook are well below average and below forecast. The average first quarter point for Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar with normal run timing is June 19 and the midpoint is June 24. The first Chinook salmon are making their way upriver and should be approaching Tanana. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach this season, subsistence fishing will be closed as Chinook salmon migrate up stream.

At this time, very few summer chum salmon have entered the Yukon River and the run appears to be late similar to 2020 and 2021. As of June 20, the cumulative Pilot Station sonar counts for summer chum salmon are the lowest on record for this date. The run abundance is too low to project whether escapement goals will be met.

The loss of food and annual traditional harvesting practices are recognized. Regulations require that subsistence salmon fishing opportunity is the last to be closed, only when escapement goals and future salmon returns are at risk. Sport, personal use and commercial fishing opportunities are also closed this year at all locations on the Yukon River and its tributaries.

The inseason salmon management teleconferences hosted by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) are held Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. 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**

All information is current through June 20.

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

LYTF operations for 2022 have been altered. 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.

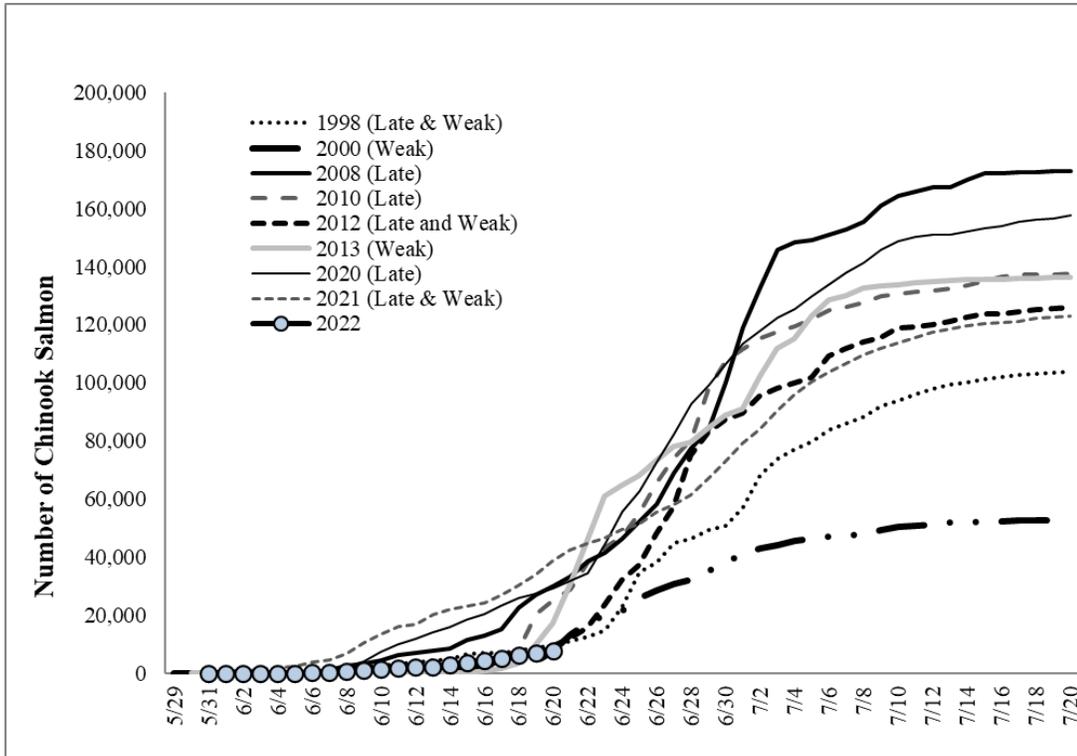
Chinook salmon test fish operations began early enough to evaluate the beginning part of the run but continue to encounter issues with high water and lots of debris. Big Eddy set net site was deployed June 5. The cumulative CPUE for the Big Eddy set net site is 2.88, which is lower than the 2015 – 2021 Big Eddy site only historical average for this date of 10.26.

LYTF drift gillnet operations began on May 26 at Big Eddy for Chinook and summer chum salmon. Middle Mouth Drifts began June 3. Drift sites continue to have issues with wind, rough water and lots of debris. Some drifts have been cancelled due to poor fishing conditions. The Big Eddy cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE in the 8.25-inch drift gillnet is 18.26, which is below the historic average of 189.58. The Middle Mouth cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE for the 8.25-inch drift gillnet is 1.55, and the combined Chinook drift CPUE is 7.44. The cumulative CPUE for summer chum salmon in the 5.5-inch drift gillnet is 55.93, which is below the historical median of 2,214.83. While a few summer chum salmon are continuing to be caught in LYTF, no large groups have been detected. LYTF data indicates Chinook and summer chum salmon have been entering the lower river mostly in the South mouth, with just a few fish entering the Middle mouth so far.

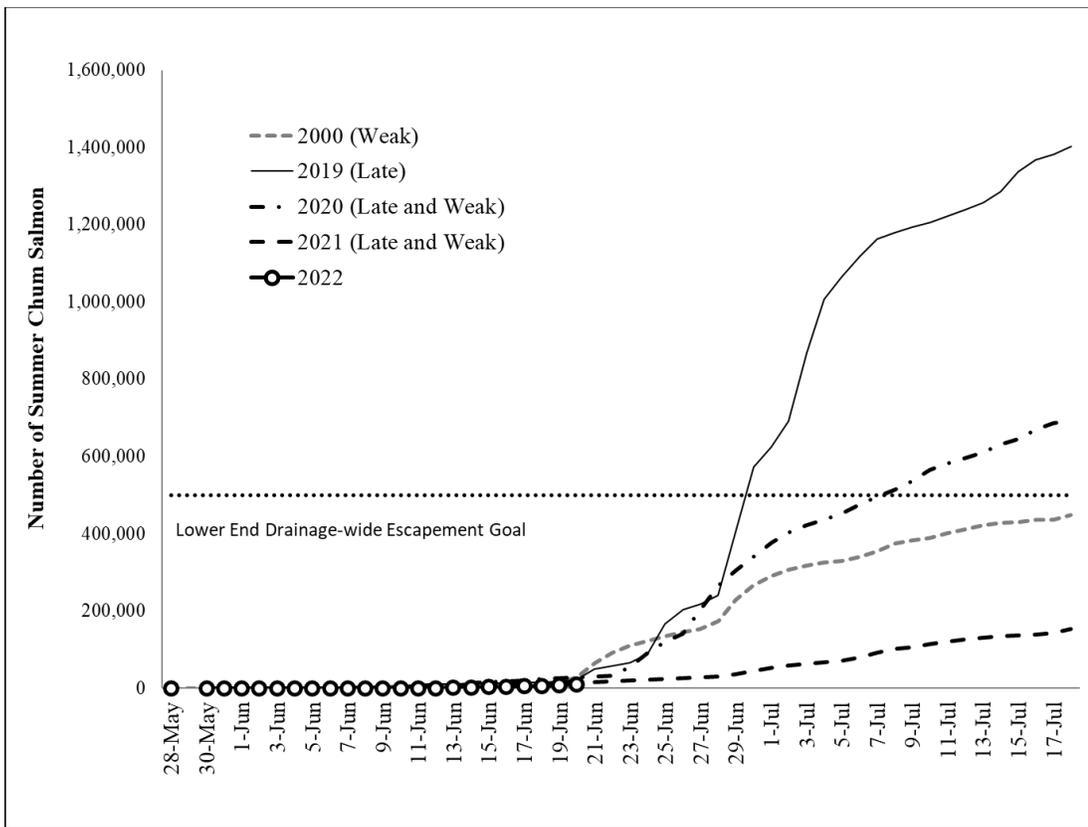
Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to community members by Tribal councils, or on a first come, first-served basis from a public dock. Chinook salmon test fish mortalities will be sampled for genetics, otoliths, liver, 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 *Ichthyophonus* and the kidney is being tested for proliferative kidney disease (PKD). Results will be available post season.

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

Water levels have been high with lots of debris. While some test fish drifts have been shortened due to woody debris, most of the fish are traveling close to shore and are within the range of the transducers. Low test fish catches affect the ability to apportion sonar counts, so pooling of numbers is necessary in some zones and counts may change. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be  $7,568 \pm 1,645$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative average of 65,519 fish based on normal run timing years, and 25,296 fish based on late run timing years. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be  $9,398 \pm 1,709$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 337,771 fish based on normal run timing years, and 189,870 fish based on late run timing years.



**Figure 1.** 2022 Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.



**Figure 2.** 2022 Cumulative summer chum salmon passage at the Pilot Station sonar compared to 2019, and late and weak years. The horizontal dotted line represents the lower bound of the drainage-wide escapement goal for summer chum salmon.

East Fork Andreafsky Weir/ USFWS

Crew will return to St. Mary's this week to resume setting up camp.

Anvik River Sonar Project/ ADF&G

The sonar began counting on June 15. Cumulative passage is 843 summer chum salmon, which is below the median cumulative passage of 1,737 fish for this date.

Gisasa weir/ USFWS

Crew is on site and setting up camp, weir installation will begin this week.

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

Eagle Sonar, Sheenjok Sonar, Salcha and Chena River Tower /Sonar (ADF&G); 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 restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Fishermen should fish this nonsalmon gear in areas where resident species are more likely to be encountered.

Due to the low run sizes, we are encouraging fishermen to target nonsalmon and to release Chinook and summer chum salmon alive from nonsalmon gear types to protect future salmon runs. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Other legal gear types to take nonsalmon include hook and line with a rod or pole, up to and including the Nulato River, while all Yukon River districts may use hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, and spear.

**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):

**Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

**Districts 2 and 3** (including Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, and Holy Cross):

**Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

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

**Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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 or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

**Subdistrict 4-A** (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point, including Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

**Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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 or shorter length. Dip**

**nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

**Hook and line gear may be used up to and including the Nulato River.**

**Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C (including Galena and Ruby):**

**Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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 or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

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

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 25 salmon fishing will close. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh will not be allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the South and Middle forks of 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. If you are outside the permit area, contact the Fairbanks office at 907-459-7274 for a subsistence harvest calendar.

**Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (including Tanana and Rampart):**

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

**Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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 or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in Subdistrict 5-C from the westernmost tip of Garnet Island upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located two miles downstream of Waldron Creek (Dalton Highway bridge area).

**Subdistrict 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):**

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 25, salmon fishing will close. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh will not be allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook salmon must be released alive.**

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-D Lower from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the mouth of Dall River.

**Subdistrict 5-D Middle** (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough, including the Porcupine River, all other adjacent tributaries, and the communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, salmon fishing will close. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh will not be allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook salmon must be released alive.**

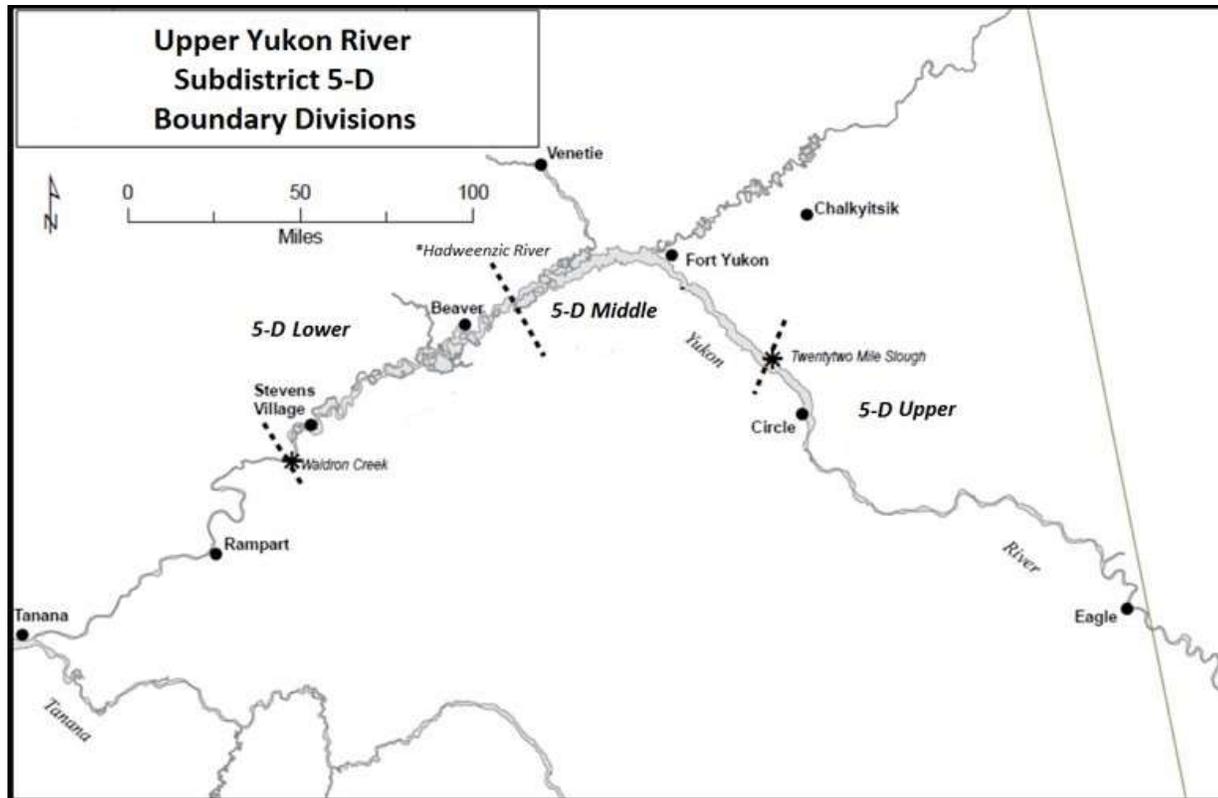
In Birch Creek, and the subsistence area of Beaver Creek below Moose Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 3 inches.

**Subdistrict 5-D Upper** (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, June 30, salmon fishing will close. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh will not be allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook salmon must be released alive.**

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.



**Subdistricts 6-A and Kantishna** (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, and Manley):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, June 23, salmon fishing will close. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh will not be allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive. Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in Lake Minchumina.**

**Subdistricts 6-B and Old Minto Area** (from eastern edge of the Kantishna River upstream to the Wood River, including Minto and Nenana):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 25, salmon fishing will close. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh will not be allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

**Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats. Note, a subsistence pike permit is required, see details below.**

**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, including Delta Junction area, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Northway, and Nabesna):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, salmon fishing will close. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh will not be allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

A reminder to fishermen that a subsistence permit is required for salmon fishing in the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A, 6-B, and Kantishna River drainage). A subsistence salmon permit is not required in Lake Minchumina. A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats and for all fish species in the Upper Tanana Area.

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/).

### **Personal Use Management Actions**

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

**Effective 12 p.m. (noon) Sunday, June 26, Personal Use salmon fishing will close and periods are cancelled until further notice.**

### **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):

**Personal Use whitefish and sucker fishing with gillnets and fish wheels follows the Subdistrict 6-C Personal Use salmon fishing schedule and will close at 12 p.m. (noon) Sunday, June 26 until further notice.**

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

A reminder to personal use fishermen that a personal use salmon permit is required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C and a personal use whitefish and sucker permit is required to fish for these species in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. Both permits require a valid sport fishing license. Permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fairbanks office 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) and shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

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).

