



## Advisory Announcement

## CONTACT:

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*Released: May 30, 2023*

### 2023 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #4

#### District 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Late and intense breakup conditions in the Yukon Area have impacted many communities this year and we acknowledge the hardship this has caused residents along the river as they prepare for spring and summer subsistence activities. While late breakup may cause salmon to delay their entry into the river, some fish have likely begun to travel upriver to areas where ice has already gone out.

The 2023 Chinook salmon run size is forecasted to be small and unable 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 closures will start based on historic Chinook salmon run timing. This is intended to protect all Chinook salmon stocks while they migrate upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. Chinook salmon are typically caught in the Lower Yukon Test Fishery at Emmonak in early June. Therefore, salmon fishing will close June 2 in the Coastal District and District 1. Salmon fishing will close on June 7 in District 3 to account for run timing between districts.

The summer chum salmon run will be assessed as it enters the river. If the summer chum salmon run is projected to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal (at least 500,000 fish), fishing opportunities with selective gear types may be announced. The last few years (since 2019), the summer chum salmon run has been entering the river up to a week late, and the midpoint of the run at Pilot Station Sonar has been around July 3. It is unlikely that any fishing for salmon would occur prior to the midpoint of the summer chum salmon run.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates) and shared during the YRDFA teleconferences. The first teleconference will be Tuesday, **June 6 at 1:00 p.m. (Alaska time). Call in number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#**

The ADF&G Emmonak office will be open regular hours beginning on June 5: Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office: 1-907-949-1320.

#### Subsistence Management Actions

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used during salmon fishing closures to target nonsalmon. **Four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets must be 60 feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net.** Nets should be set near shore and fishermen are reminded to set this gear in areas where nonsalmon species are abundant to avoid incidentally harvesting salmon. While any salmon caught in this gear may be kept, if it appears salmon are being targeted with this gear, it could be further restricted.

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

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. Wednesday, June 7, salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore.**

**Dip nets, beach seines, 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 (including Shageluk):**

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

Other legal gear to take nonsalmon during subsistence salmon fishing closures include beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, and spear. Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

In District 3 and the Innoko River, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence fishing during ice-free months, however submerged nets must have a visible buoy or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net, plus a third float in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length. As a general reminder, gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address.

#### **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 advisory announcement. As there is no salmon fishing allowed for Chinook and chum salmon, the Federal manager has not issued any Federal special actions at this time. The Emmonak USFWS office is not open. To reach the USFWS Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, call Holly Carroll at 907-351-3029.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G and the USFWS. 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).

