



Advisory Announcement

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #19

Summer Update #4, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The Chinook salmon run appears well below average and unlikely to meet escapement objectives. The 2025 Chinook salmon run has passed the historical midpoint (June 25) and is currently tracking below the preseason forecast and similar to the poor runs observed in 2000, 2023, and 2024.

Summer chum salmon catch rates in LYTF increased last weekend, however cumulative Pilot Station Sonar counts for the season remain very low with less than an estimated passage of less than 150,000 summer chum salmon so far. We are past the typical quarter point for late runs and are approaching the midpoint. The 2025 summer chum salmon run size appears to be below the lower end of the forecast range and the drainagewide escapement goal range (500,000 to 1.2 million fish).

Salmon fishing closures have been announced in all districts and subdistricts of the Yukon River and tributaries to protect the poor salmon runs as they migrate upriver to spawning grounds.

Closures of all gillnets (including 4-inch or less mesh) have been implemented to further protect Chinook and summer chum salmon from incidental harvest. These closures dates have been announced for all districts. After the bulk of the Chinook salmon run has passed, 4-inch or smaller mesh setnets 60-feet or less in length may be used to target nonsalmon.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). Daily sonar passage estimates and LYTF test fish numbers are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG) and by calling toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

Weekly teleconferences hosted by YRDFA take place on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. The call-in number is 1-800-315-6338, and the participation code is Yukon# (98566#).

Assessment Projects

All assessment data is updated through June 30.

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

Summer chum salmon drifts with 5.5-inch gillnets began on June 2 at Big Eddy and June 3 at Middle Mouth sites. As of June 30, the cumulative CPUE is 526.28.60 which is below the historic cumulative CPUE of 2117.62. Multiple drifts have been canceled in the last few days due to poor weather conditions. CPUE indexes may not reflect true passage rates.

To reduce mortalities, LYTF discontinued the Chinook salmon test fishery again this year. Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to communities.

Data collected from summer chum salmon will include Age, Sex, and Length (ASL). A few summer chum salmon caught in LYTF will also be sampled this year for other fish health research.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 4. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be $147,158 \pm 14,970$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative median of 955,143 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $31,182 \pm 6,264$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative average of 123,210 fish.

All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery are sampled for age, sex, length and genetics. Additional biological sampling will be conducted for all Chinook salmon test fish mortalities as part of a broad collaborative effort to better understand salmon health and potential drivers of *en route* mortality and low productivity.

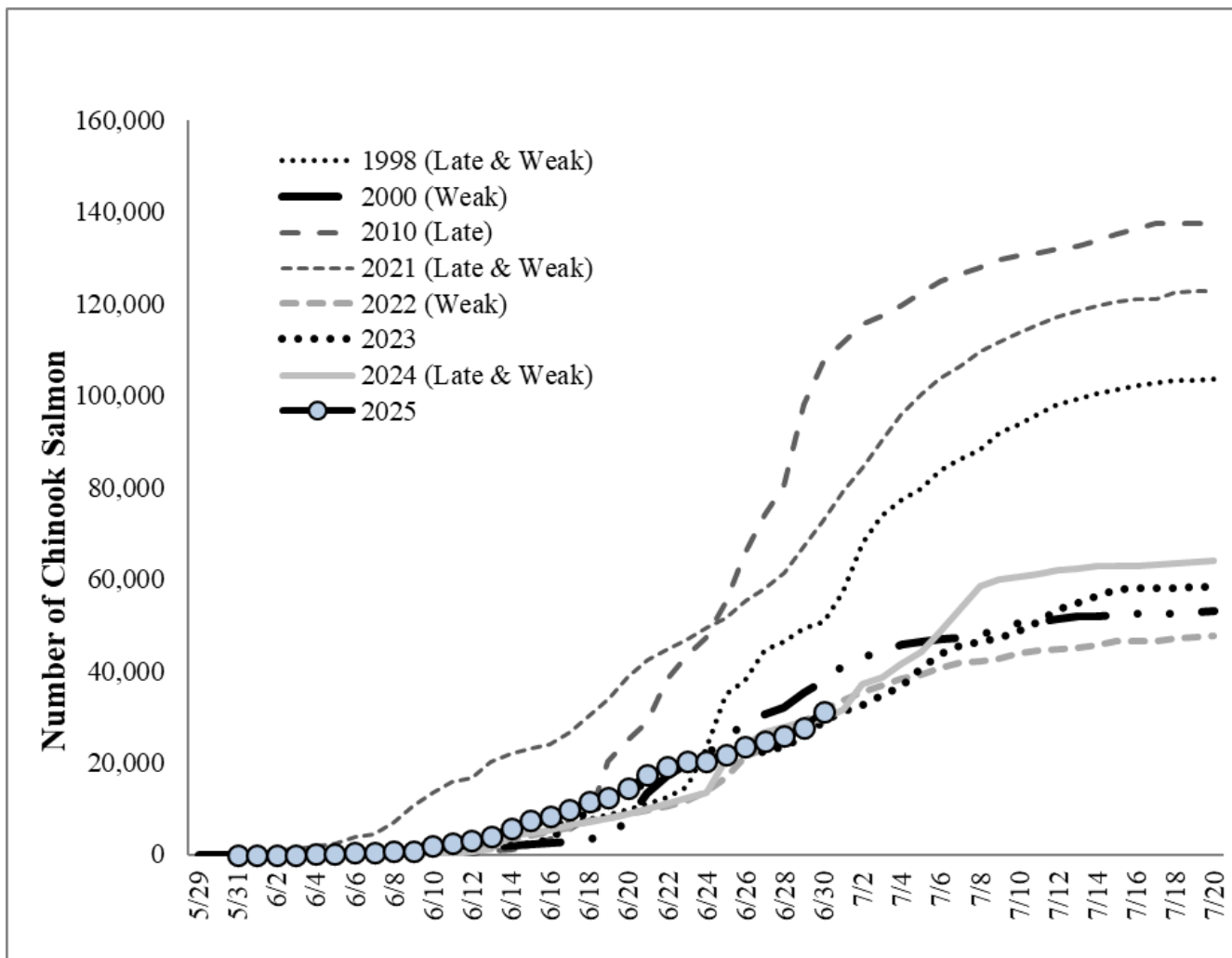


Figure 1. 2025 Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

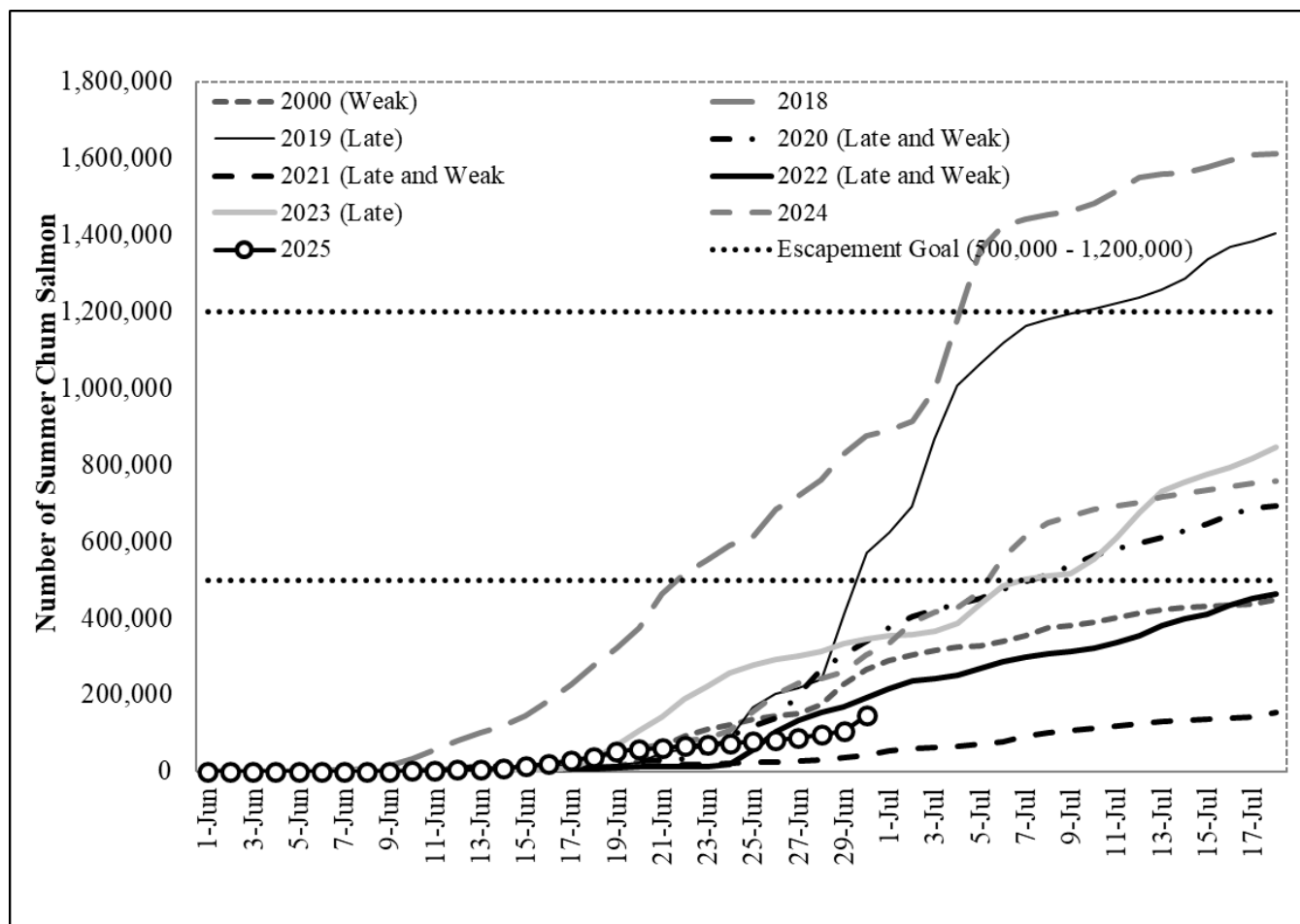


Figure 2. 2025 Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 16. Summer chum passage is estimated to be $3,866 \pm 257$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 47,341 fish.

Chena Tower/sonar (ADF&G)

Visual counts from the Chena Tower began on June 30. No salmon were observed.

Salcha Tower (ADF&G)

Tower installation and operations were delayed due to forest fires and evacuation watches. Tower should be installed in the first week of July.

Eagle Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar pods deployed in the evening on June 30. Sonar project fully operational as of July 1.

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 154 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery through June 22 was 21% age-4, 69% age-5, 8% age-6 and 2% age-7 fish. The percentage of age-4 and age-5 fish were above average, while age-6 fish were below average. Chinook salmon within each age

class were smaller than the recent 10-year average with the exception of age 7 fish. The average length of 680 mm across all age classes is smaller than the recent 10-year average length of 736 mm.

The age composition of 123 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through June 20 was 22% age-4, which is lower than the historical average of 36% for this date. The age-5 component made up 74% of the samples, which is higher than the historical average of 61% for this date. Of the samples, 4% were age-6 fish, which compares to the historical average of 3% for this date. The average length of 548 mm for the age-4 fish and the average length of 570 mm of age-5 fish are both similar compared to historical averages (2015–2024). Female summer chum salmon comprised 54% of the samples which is similar to the historical average (2015–2024) of 57%.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) on the early group of Chinook salmon (Stratum 1, sampled from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery June 4 to June 19) indicated that $50\% \pm 8\%$ (90% Credible Interval) of this group of fish were of Canadian-origin (which is similar to historical Canadian proportions for this portion of the run. Currently the projections for the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run indicate a run size below the lower end of the preseason outlook of 24,000 to 37,000 fish.

General subsistence gear reminders

Gear types for nonsalmon species include: hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. However, **Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.**

Gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. Fishwheels must have first initial, last name, and address legibly inscribed on the side of the wheel facing mid-channel. In Districts 3-6, 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.

Current Subsistence Management Actions by District or Subdistrict

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):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 3, 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 near shore.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, July 5, 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 near shore.

District 3 (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, 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 near shore.

Innoko River (including Shageluk):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Monday, July 14.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (including Galena and Ruby):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 16.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 16.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot. Gillnet gear in the permit area must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size. Fishing with gillnets in the permit area will close at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 29 and will not reopen until August 20.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (from Illinois Creek to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek including Tanana and Rampart):

Salmon fishing is closed. Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week, with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 3 until 8 p.m. Sunday July 20, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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)

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):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week, with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 until 8 p.m. Saturday July 26, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed 24 hours a day, seven days per week. However, it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. 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):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week, with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, July 13 until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 30, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed 24 hours a day, seven days per week. However, it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. 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 4 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 with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with mesh larger than 4-inches are not allowed. Gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 17 until 8 p.m. Sunday, August 3, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed 24 hours a day, seven days per week but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. 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.

Subdistrict 6-A and Kantishna River (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):

Salmon fishing is closed. Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is currently open with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, July 5 until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 22, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed 24 hours a day, seven days per week during this period. However, it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

In Lake Minchumina subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

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

Salmon fishing is closed. Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is currently open with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, July 7 until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 24, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. However, it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 27, subsistence fishing is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. 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):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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 near shore.

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

Personal Use Management Actions

Subdistrict 6-C (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):

Personal Use salmon fishing is closed, 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 is closed until further notice. Fishing with other gear for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, 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.

Subsistence harvest calendars and subsistence and personal use 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/.

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. The USFWS Federal Inseason Manager has issued separate Fishery special actions with the same fishing restrictions and schedule in waters adjacent to Federal Land. 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.

ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/ and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG.

