



## **Advisory Announcement**

## **CONTACT:**

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### **2025 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #20** **Summer Update #5, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2025 Chinook salmon run is currently tracking similar to the poor runs observed in 2000, 2023, and 2024. The mid-point of late run timing is historically June 28, and it is likely that more than three-quarters of the run has entered the river. As of July 7, the Pilot Station sonar project estimated 49,149 Chinook salmon passage, which is well below the historic cumulative average of 150,373 fish. The early portion of the Chinook salmon run has made it to the U.S.-Canada border. As of July 7, the Eagle sonar project had an estimated passage of 313 Chinook salmon, which is below the historical cumulative average of 1,162 fish for this date.

Summer chum salmon estimates from Pilot Station sonar are also tracking well below average. The 2025 summer chum salmon run is past the historical mid-point for late-run scenarios. As of July 7, the Pilot Station sonar project estimated 265,558 summer chum salmon passage, which is well below the historic cumulative median of 1,372,616 fish. The 2025 summer chum salmon run is unlikely to meet the lower end of 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 conserve both runs and help salmon reach their spawning grounds, all Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive from selective and nonlethal gear types when fishing for nonsalmon species.

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. Gillnets should be set in areas where they will target nonsalmon species and avoid incidental harvests of salmon.

The fall chum season will start in the Lower Yukon Area on July 16, and Lower Yukon assessment projects will begin transitioning to fall season counts next week.

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 July 7.

### 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 July 7, the cumulative CPUE is 612.37 which is below the historic median cumulative CPUE of 2,407.77.

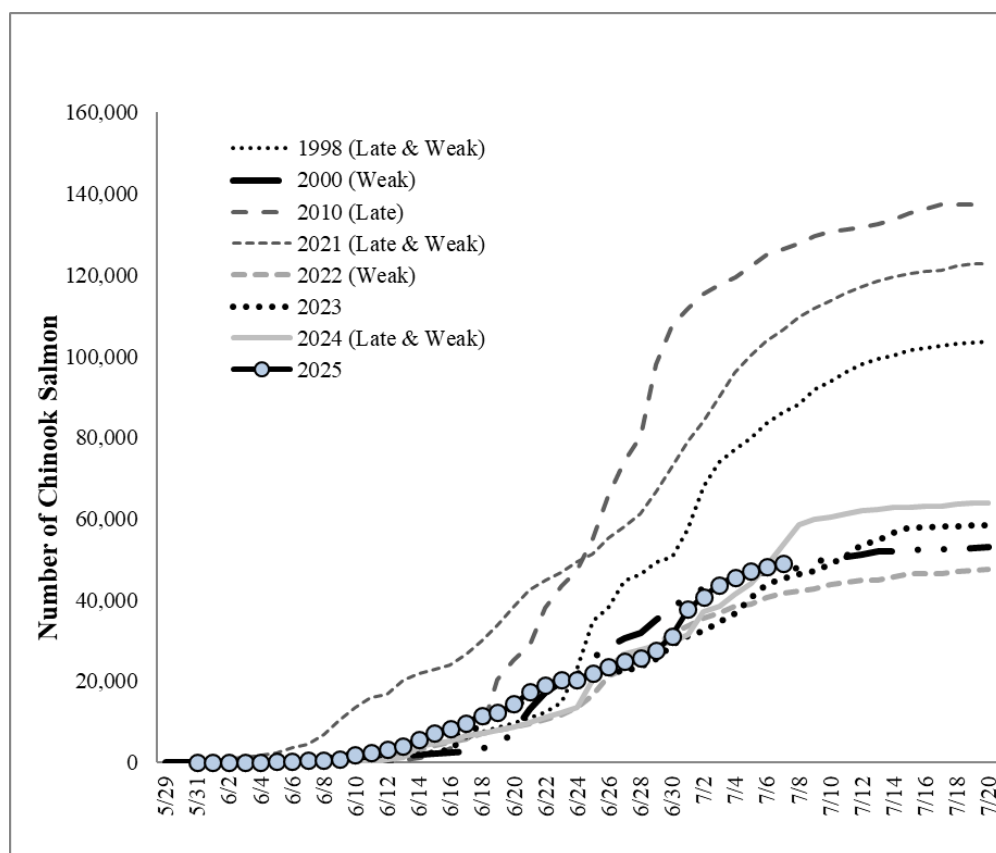
To reduce mortalities, LYTF discontinued the Chinook salmon test fishery again this year. Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to communities.

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.

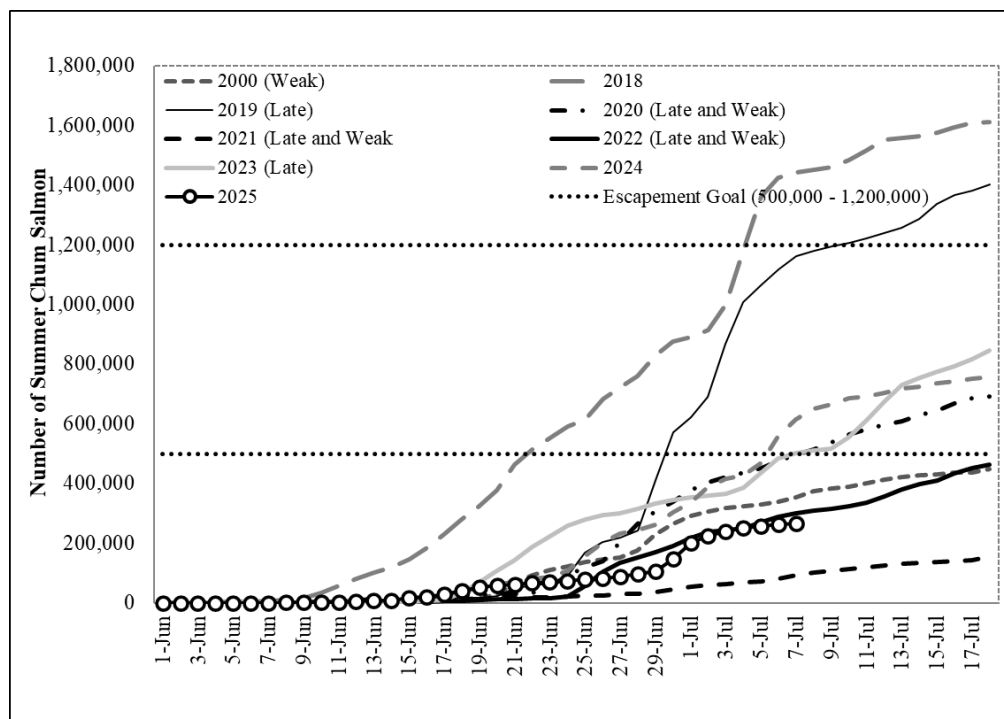
### Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 4. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be  $265,558 \pm 11,071$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative median of 1,372,616 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be  $49,149 \pm 4,626$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative average of 150,373 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.** Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025.



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

#### Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 16. Summer chum passage is estimated to be  $9,964 \pm 204$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 185,257 fish.

#### Chena Tower/sonar (ADF&G)

Visual counts from the Chena Tower began on June 30. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 86 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 337 fish.

#### Salcha Tower (ADF&G)

Tower installation and operations were delayed due to forest fires and evacuation watches. Counts began on July 3. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 82 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 249 fish.

#### Eagle Sonar (ADF&G)

The Sonar project was fully operational as of July 1. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 313 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 1,162 fish.

### **Age, Sex, and Length Composition**

The age composition of 305 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery through July 4 was 18% age-4, 66% age-5, 14% 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 692 mm across all age classes is smaller than the recent 10-year average length of 733 mm.

The age composition of 183 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through June 25 was 27% age-4, which is lower than the historical average of 42% for this date. The age-5 component made up 68% of the samples, which is higher than the historical average of 55% for this date. Of the samples, 5% were age-6 fish, which compares to the historical average of 5% for this date. The average length of 550 mm for the age-4 fish is below the historical average (2015–2024) of 555 mm. For age-5 the average length of 571 mm is similar to the historical average. Female summer chum salmon comprised 52% of the samples which is below 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 the historical Canadian proportions for this portion of the run of 0.53. Samples from Stratum 2 (June 20 to July 4) indicated that  $42\% \pm 7\%$  (90% Credible Interval) of this group were of Canadian-origin, which is the same as the historical proportion for the second strata of 0.42. Currently the projections for the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run indicate a run size point estimate within the preseason outlook of 24,000 to 37,000 fish (estimate = 25,269).

The first stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery (from June 4 through June 22) consisted of 99% summer chum salmon, of those 88% were lower river, 8% were bound for the middle river, and 3% were bound for the Tanana River. The lower summer stocks are above average while the middle river and Tanana River components are below average for this time period. The second stratum of chum genetics samples from June 23 through July 4 are currently being processed in the lab, look for the results in future ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>

## 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):

**Until further notice, 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

**Until further notice, 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

**Until further notice, 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

**Innoko River** (including Shageluk):

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

**Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10, 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. 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.

**Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10, 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. 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 remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. 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 remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. 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 remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. 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):**

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Sunday July 20.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 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.

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 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 remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 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.

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 Hadweenzie 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 remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 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 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):

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

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 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.

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):

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 22.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 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 with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for nonsalmon species remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week.**

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

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 24.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 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, subsistence fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for nonsalmon species remains 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/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/).

### **Personal Use Management Actions**

Personal Use salmon fishing in Subdistrict 6-C 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/](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 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](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).

