



Advisory Announcement

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Released: July 15, 2025

2025 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #21

Summer Update #6, 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. It is now likely that more than three-quarters of the run has entered the river. As of July 14, the Pilot Station sonar project had an estimated passage of 57,375 Chinook salmon, which is well below the historic cumulative average of 160,149 fish. The early portion of the Chinook salmon run has made it to the U.S.-Canada border. As of July 14, the Eagle sonar project had an estimated passage of 2,995 Chinook salmon, which is below the historical cumulative average of 6,175 fish for this date.

Summer chum salmon estimates from Pilot Station sonar are also tracking well below average. As of July 14, the Pilot Station sonar project had an estimated passage of 325,793 summer chum salmon, which is well below the historic cumulative median of 1,555,354 fish. It is now likely that more than three-quarters of the summer chum salmon run has entered the river, and the run is not projected to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal range (500,000 to 1.2 million fish).

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 closure 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 for the remainder of the summer season. Gillnets should be set in areas where they will target nonsalmon species and avoid incidental harvests of salmon. 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.

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 this week. During the fall season, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels will be on a weekly schedule and will be open on the weekends from noon Thursdays to noon Sundays and closed the remainder of the week. Fall chum and coho salmon must also be released alive from all selective gear types. Each district should stand by for announcements detailing the start date for the fall season and the weekend only opportunity with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels. These conservation measures are being taken to protect all portions of the fall chum and coho salmon runs as they migrate upriver.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). To subscribe to these updates, fill out the form on the following website:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.search>

Daily sonar passage estimates and LYTF test fish numbers are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG) and can be heard 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 14.

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 14, the cumulative CPUE is 647.72 which is below the historic median cumulative CPUE of 2,539.73. Final summer season drifts will be on July 15, unless cancelled by weather.

The LYTF project will switch to 6.0-mesh gillnets for fall chum salmon on June 16.

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

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.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 4. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be $325,793 \pm 20,516$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative median of 1,555,354 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $57,375 \pm 7,973$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative median of 1,555,354 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.

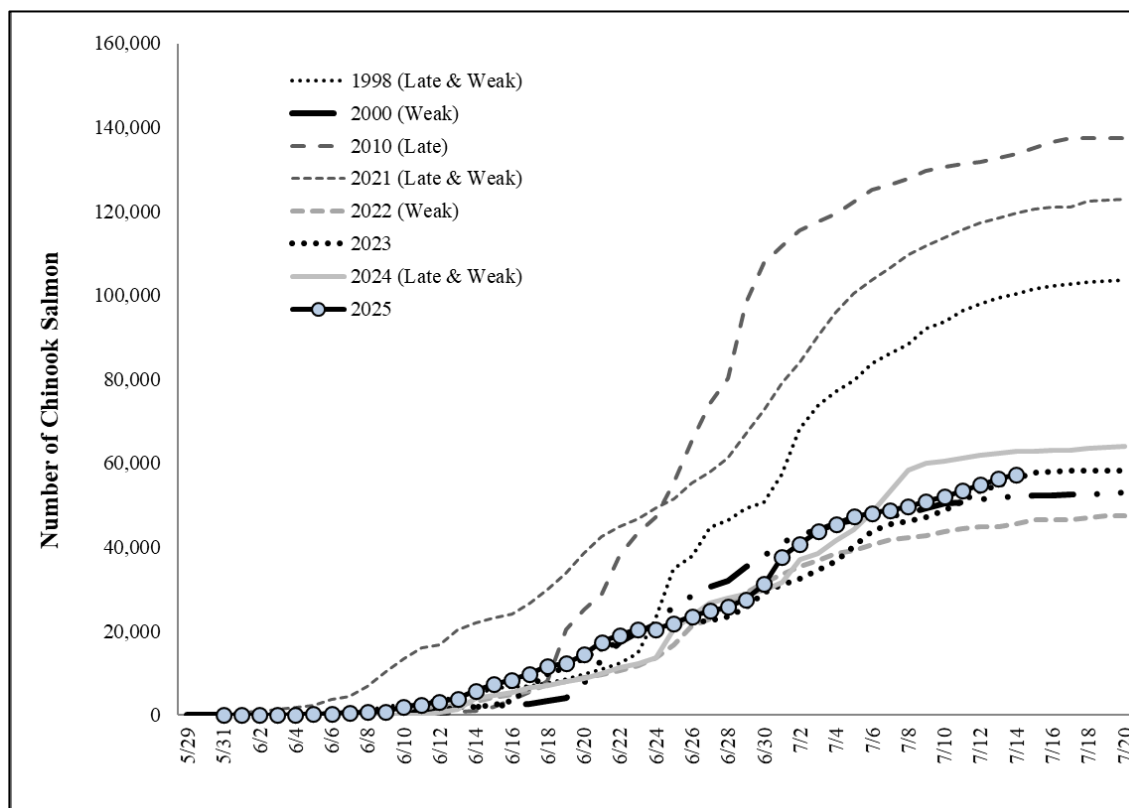


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025.

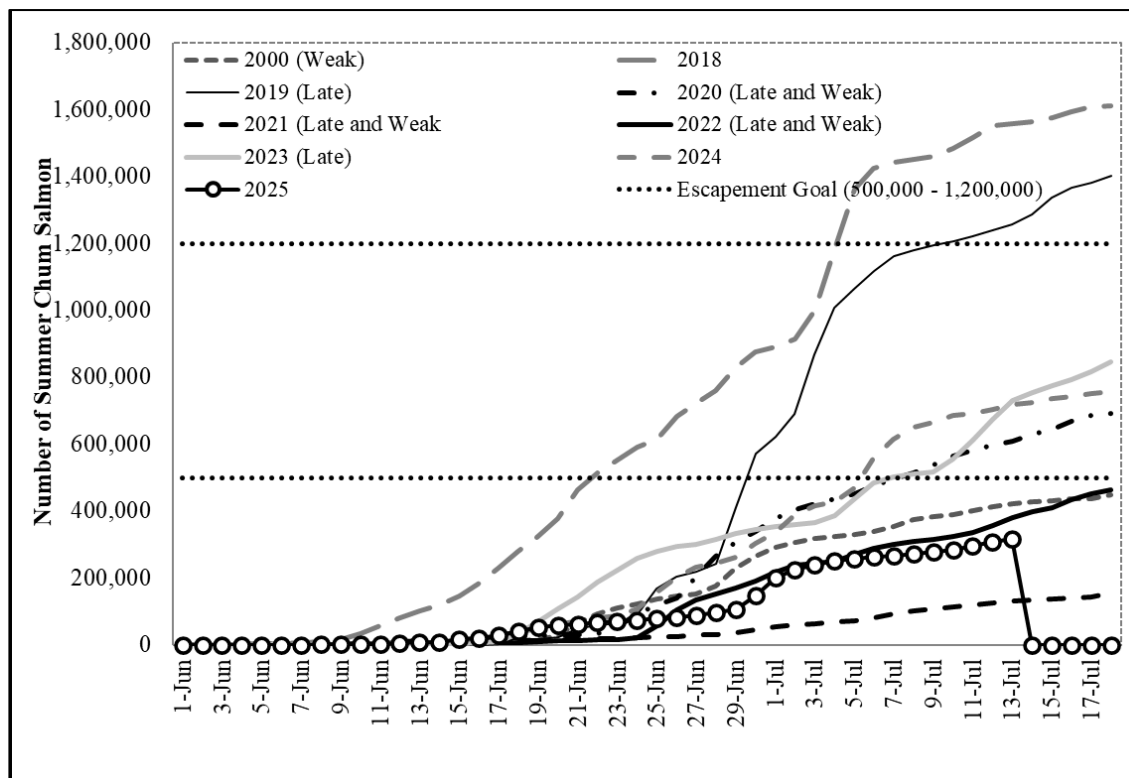


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025.

Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 16. Summer chum passage is estimated to be $33,386 \pm 612$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 322,410 fish.

Chena Tower/sonar (ADF&G)

Visual counts from the Chena Tower began on June 30. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 192 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 1,502 fish.

Salcha Tower (ADF&G)

Counts began on July 3 after delays due to forest fires. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 324 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 1,897 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 138 fish which is above the historical cumulative average of 69 fish.

Eagle Sonar (ADF&G)

The Sonar project was fully operational as of July 1. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 2,995 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 6,176 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 382 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through July 5 was 31% age-4, which is lower than the historical average of 48% for this date. The age-5 component made up 65% of the samples, which is higher than the historical average of 49% for this date. Of the samples, 4% were age-6 fish, which is compared to the historical average of 2% for this date. The average length of 549 mm for the age-4 fish is below the historical average (2015–2024) of 553 mm. For age-5 the average length of 567 mm is below the historical average of 569 mm. Female summer chum salmon comprised 50% of the samples which is below the historical average (2015–2024) of 55%.

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 near the preseason outlook of 24,000 to 37,000 fish (estimate = 23,862). With the Chinook run past Pilot Station nearly complete, there is evidence that the Canadian-origin run may be near the upper-end of the projection (Upper 80% CI – 27,882).

The second stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery (from June 23 through July 4) consisted of 97% summer chum salmon. Of those, 59% were bound for lower river, 37% were bound for the middle river, and 1% were bound for the Tanana River. The lower summer and Tanana stocks were below average while the middle river components were above average for this time period. The

third stratum of chum genetics samples will include July 5 through July 18, 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. **Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive. At the start of the fall season in each district, fall chum and coho salmon must also 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 floats attached to both ends of the net.

Current Subsistence Management Actions by District or Subdistrict

Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, and 3 and the Innoko River (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Emmonak, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross and Shageluk):

Currently, 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 with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets will close at 12:00 p.m. noon, Sunday July 20.

Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, July 24 fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels will reopen on a weekly fishing schedule from:

12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays, until further notice.

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, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive. During the fall season, starting at 12:01 am Wednesday, July 16, fall chum and coho salmon must also 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):

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.

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

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.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday July 16, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used 24 hours a day, seven days per week until further notice to target nonsalmon. Gillnets 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.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday July 16, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used 24 hours a day, seven days per week until further notice to target nonsalmon. Gillnets 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.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot. Gillnets in the permit area 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.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday July 20, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used 24 hours a day, seven days per week until further notice to target nonsalmon. Gillnets 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. 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 westernmost 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):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Saturday July 26.

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, other adjacent tributaries, and communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 30.

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/.

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/.

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.

