



Advisory Announcement

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #21

Fall Update #9, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2025 Yukon River fall chum salmon run is projected to be below 300,000 fish compared to a historical run size of 900,000 fish. The drainagewide escapement goal is 300,000–600,000 fall chum salmon. As outlined in the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, the projected run size must exceed 300,000 fish to provide subsistence salmon fishing opportunity. A run size below 300,000 fall chum salmon is not anticipated to be large enough to meet U.S. tributary goals or Canadian treaty objectives for fall chum salmon.

Genetic analysis applied to the fish passage estimates at the Yukon River mainstem sonar near Pilot Station indicate 276,000 fall chum salmon are in the river as of September 7, well below the historical median of 837,000 fish (Figure 1). Like the last several years, the Canadian components of the fall chum salmon run, based on genetics, are extremely poor and are expected to be well below the border passage objectives.

Despite coming off a poor primary parent year escapement (2021), the coho salmon run appears to be stronger than recent years. The coho salmon run size, based on early run timing, is projected to be 108,000 fish, compared to a historical average run index of 216,000 fish.

Currently, subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon is closed but coho salmon retention is allowed in all legal subsistence gear types. Whitefish and other nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels is still on a reduced schedule to protect migrating fall chum salmon. Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon with 6-inch gillnets is open in designated, nonsalmon areas off the mainstem river only. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #10-#15 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated whitefish harvest areas.

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 passage estimates are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG), ADF&G webpage www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts, and can be heard inseason by calling toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

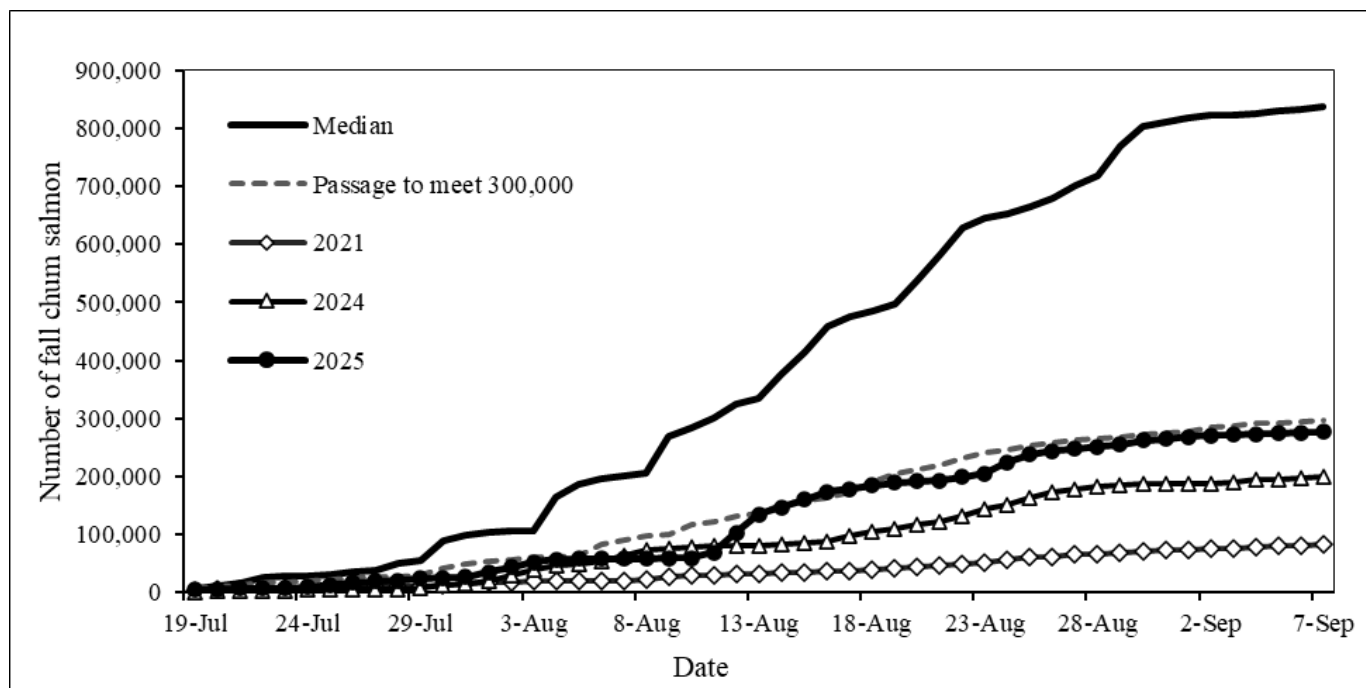


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon (as determined using genetic mixed stock analysis) at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2025, and includes estimates of downstream harvests, compared to the historical median and select years. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal.

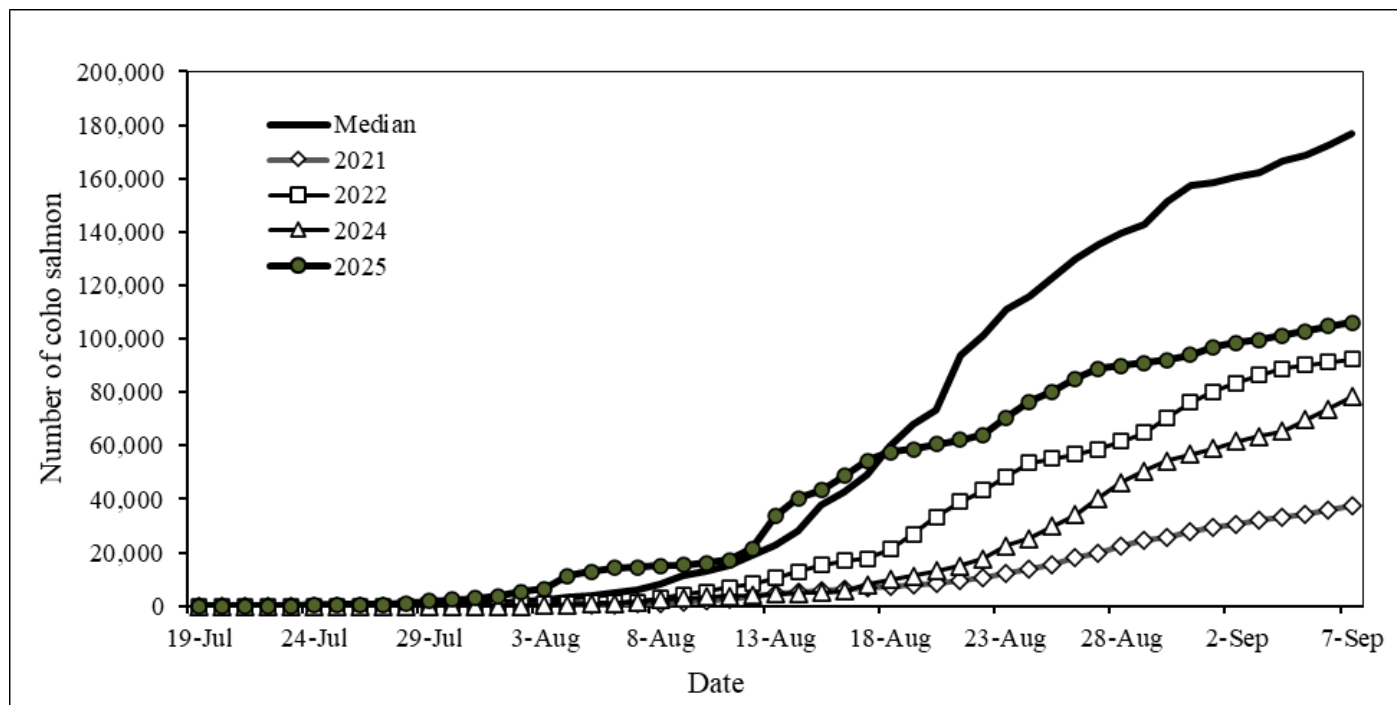


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar (Pilot Station), including estimates of downstream harvests, in 2025 compared to historical median and select recent years.

Fall Assessment Projects

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (ADF&G and YDFDA)

This project concluded on September 10 with a fall chum salmon cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 872.42, which is below the median of 1,258.96. Fall chum salmon run timing this year was 8 days late compared to median. The coho salmon cumulative CPUE was 257.53, which is below the historical median of 343.42 for that date. Coho salmon run timing this year was 2 days early compared to median.

Data collected from chum and coho salmon included Age, Sex, and Length (ASL). A portion of the fall chum and coho salmon caught in LYTF were also sampled for other fish health research. All retained salmon were distributed to local communities.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

This project concluded on September 7. The cumulative passage estimate was 343,000 chum salmon in the fall season and contained approximately 276,000 fall chum salmon as determined by genetics. Run timing for all chum salmon in the fall season was 3 days late while the genetic fall chum salmon was average compared to median. The coho salmon cumulative passage as of September 7 is approximately 106,000 fish (Figure 2), which is below the median passage of 177,000 fish. The run timing for coho salmon was 5 days earlier than median.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar (USFWS)

The sonar project began operations on August 7. As of September 15, the cumulative passage was 32,000 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 108,000 fish for this date. The midpoint of the run based on median passage is September 13 at this project. The Teedriinjik escapement goal is 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project began operations on August 6. As of September 14, the cumulative passage was 6,500 fall chum salmon, however this count is considered a minimum due to high water forcing temporary removal of the sonars intermittently. The median passage for this date is 34,000 fall chum salmon. The midpoint based on median passage is September 15 at this project.

Eagle Sonar (ADF&G and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO))

The sonar project transitioned to counting fall chum salmon on August 28. As of September 15, the cumulative passage was 5,471 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 27,000 fish for this date. The first-quarter point based on median passage is September 16 at this project.

Porcupine River Sonar (Yukon Territory Canada / DFO)

This sonar project transitioned to counting fall chum salmon on August 15. As of September 14, the cumulative passage was 2,802 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 11,700 fish for this date.

Fishing Branch River Weir/Sonar (Yukon Territory Canada / DFO)

This project recently began counting fall chum salmon on September 4. As of September 14, the cumulative passage was 1,630 fall chum salmon, which is below the median passage of 5,767 fish. The first-quarter point based on median passage is September 15 at this project. The interim management escapement goal is 22,000–49,000 fall chum salmon for this system.

Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 458 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 16 through September 10, consisted of 78% age-4 and 17% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 69% age-4 and 28% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon based on 470 fish

sampled from July 16–September 10, was 59% which is near the 2001–2024 historical average of 58%. The chum salmon average length was 574 mm is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 583 mm through September 10. The age composition of 193 coho salmon sampled from July 16 through September 10, consisted of 40% age-3 and 59% age-4 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 16% age-3 and 76% age-4. The percentage of female coho salmon based on 193 fish sampled through September 10 was 47% which near the 2001–2024 historical average of 46%. The average length of 567 mm is above the 2001–2024 historical average of 561 mm through September 10.

Stock Identification

The last genetic samples of the season were processed. The last stratum of genetics represented passage at the mainstem sonar from August 27 through September 7 and consisted of 64% Tanana Fall, 23% Border U.S. (Teedriinjik, Sheenjek, and Draanjik), and 8% Canada. Overall, since July 19, the fall chum salmon run consisted of 46% Tanana Fall, 41% Border/US, and 12% Canada. The 2025 level of mainstem Yukon River Canadian contribution of 10% is well below the 2004–2024 historical average of 26%. Additional information on these results are available in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <http://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. Gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. Fish wheels must have first initial, last name, and address legibly inscribed on the side of the wheel facing midchannel. 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

Coastal District, Districts 1 to 5, and the Innoko, Koyukuk, and Porcupine rivers (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof, including the Black River, upstream to the U.S./Canada border, including 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, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Wiseman, Coldfoot, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon and coho salmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Pink, sockeye, and coho salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels may be used from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays, until further notice**. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore. Drift gillnets are not allowed.

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.

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) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

In Birch Creek and the subsistence area of Beaver Creek below Moose Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 4 inches.

Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, Old Minto Area and the Kantishna River (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon and coho salmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with selective gear types including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels may be used from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays, until further notice**. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

In Lake Minchumina and 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):

Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. **Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels may be used 24 hours a day, seven days per week, until further notice. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.** Fishing for nonsalmon with selective gear types, including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net, remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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/.

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing with set gillnets is open in rivers, sloughs, and lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them, until further notice. Set gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and 60-feet or shorter in length. This is to provide an opportunity to harvest whitefish and other nonsalmon species. Gillnets cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #10-#15 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

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.

