



Advisory Announcement

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Released: September 9, 2026

2026 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #20

Fall Update #7, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Overall, the fall chum salmon run is projecting to be greater than 900,000 fish, well above the upper end of the drainagewide escapement goal range of 300,000–600,000 fish. However, the proportion of Canadian-origin fall chum salmon is still well below average (compared to the historical average of 30% Canadian-origin fall chum salmon). Early projections of fall chum salmon headed to the Canada indicate that the border escapement goals may be met, however there is not enough certainty in our projections to identify a large enough harvestable surplus to support directed fishing on those stocks. The Yukon River Salmon Agreement with Canada (treaty) obligates the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to meet international treaty objectives before opening directed subsistence fishing for salmon in the mainstem Yukon River. The treaty objective (interim management escapement goal) for the mainstem Yukon River is 70,000–104,000 fall chum salmon and the Fishing Branch River is 22,000–49,000 fall chum salmon. Therefore, precautionary approach to management is still warranted in areas where the Canadian-origin fall chum are still migrating.

The 2026 coho salmon run is late and relatively weak. At this time, the run projection based on historic late run timing is 116,000 fish, well below the historical average run index of 212,000 coho salmon. However, the coho salmon run has increased to a level that is able to support subsistence harvest.

Currently, subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon is allowed using legal selective subsistence gear types in most tributaries of the Yukon River (see below management actions by specific location in the drainage). The fall chum salmon run is largely complete in the lower Yukon River and subsistence fishing restrictions will be removed based on fall chum salmon travel time as they make their way 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.

Assessment Projects

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

Fall season operations began on July 16 using 6-inch mesh gear to target fall chum and coho salmon. As of September 7, the cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon was 2,109.74, which is above the historic cumulative CPUE of 1,272.81 for this date. Based on late timing, the fall chum salmon run is typically

complete by this date. As of September 7, the cumulative CPUE for coho salmon was 111.45, which is well below the historic cumulative CPUE of 305.29 for this date. Based on late timing the coho salmon run is typically 98% complete by this date. Fall chum and coho salmon are sampled for ASL (Age, Sex, and Length) and all retained fish are distributed to local communities.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project operated near Pilot Station transitioned to fall season on July 19 and concluded operations on September 7. Genetic mixed stock analysis, when applied to the passage estimates indicate approximately 914,000 fall chum salmon are in the river, as of September 7 (Figure 1). This is above the median cumulative passage of 822,000 fall chum salmon for this date. The cumulative passage of ALL chum salmon during the regulatory fall season is approximately 1,029,000 fish to date and includes a mixture of both summer and fall chum salmon. The run timing for all chum salmon in the fall season was 11 days late, while the genetic fall chum salmon was 9 days late at this site.

The coho salmon cumulative passage as of September 7 is approximately 102,000 fish (Figure 2), which is below the historical passage of 177,000 fish for this date. The run timing for coho salmon was 4 days later than median at this site.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

This sonar project began operations August 14. As of September 8, the cumulative passage was 80,000 fall chum salmon, which is above the median passage of 51,000 fish for this date. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 7 at this project. The Teedriinjik escapement goal is 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar / ADF&G

This sonar project began operations August 6. As of September 8, the cumulative passage was 6,000 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 20,000 fish for this date. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 8 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 30. As of September 8, the cumulative passage was 3,900 fall chum salmon which is below the median of 10,000 fish for this date. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 16 at this project.

Porcupine River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This sonar project transitioned to counting fall chum salmon on August 18. As of September 7, the cumulative passage was 4,800 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 7,200 fish for this date. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 6 at this project.

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

This project began counting fall chum salmon on August 27. As of September 5, the cumulative passage was 64 fall chum salmon, which is below the median passage of 700 fish for this date. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 15 at this project.

Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 616 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 18 through August 26, consisted of 94% age-4 and 5% age-5 fish. The age-4 fish are well above the 2001–2025 historical average of 69% age-4. The percentage of female chum salmon through September 6 has remained low at 48%, which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 58%. The fall season chum salmon average length through September 6 was 569 mm which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 582 mm.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis on chum salmon that passed the mainstem sonar from August 24–26 indicated the stratum was 99% fall chum salmon. Of the fall chum salmon in this stratum, 18.9% were the Yukon River mainstem Canada stocks. Overall, the fall chum salmon stocks sampled from June 6 to August 26, consist of 34% Border/US (Teedriinjik, Sheenjek, Draanjik, and Coleen), 15% Canadian, and 51% Tanana Fall. The last stratum, containing samples from August 27 through September 7, are being sent into the lab later this week, weather allowing. The results will be provided in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>.

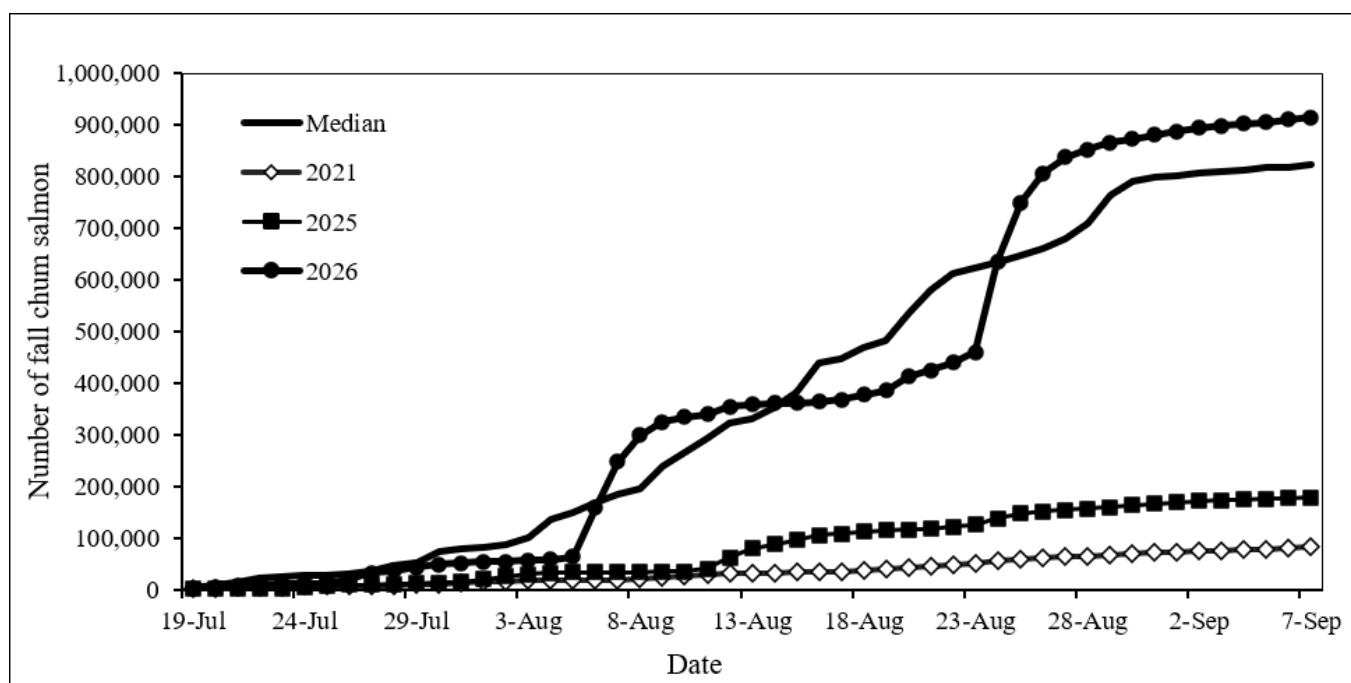


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon (as determined using genetic mixed stock analysis) at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2026 compared to the historical median and select years.

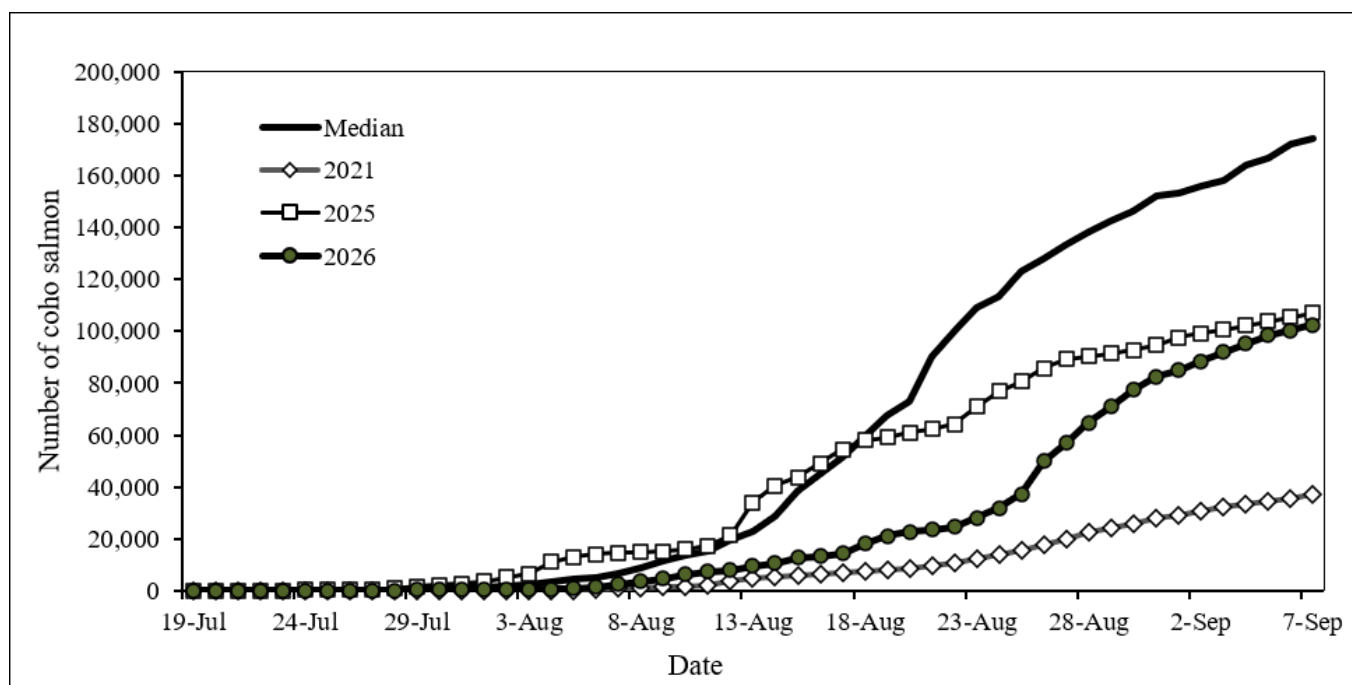


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar (Pilot Station), including estimates of downstream harvests, in 2026 compared to historical median and select recent years.

Summer Assessment Projects

Chinook Radio Telemetry (ADF&G)

In 2026, 147 Chinook salmon were tagged near Rampart Rapids. These tagged fish will be tracked throughout the upper Yukon in Alaska and Canada to evaluate en-route mortality and spawning distribution. Each fish was tagged with both an internal radio telemetry tag and an external spaghetti tag. **If you encounter a tagged fish this season and are successful at documenting the tag number, please call 1-877-467-2104 to report information about when and where the fish was observed.** As a thank you for voluntarily reporting the tag number and associated information, you will be automatically entered into the ADF&G salmon tag lottery at the ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Emmonak. Please contact Josh Clark at 907-267-2217 or Fred West at 907-267-2237 with any questions.

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Retention of salmon in the mainstem river is closed, and gillnets of 4-inch and smaller mesh (operated as set nets) to target nonsalmon are allowed on a schedule from noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays.

Coastal District, Districts 1-3, and Subdistrict 4-A, (including the Innoko and Koyukuk rivers, and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross, Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia Hughes, Alatna, Bettles, and Wiseman):

Effective **8:00 a.m. Thursday, September 10**, subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet and will no longer be restricted to being operated as a set net.

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

Effective **8:00 a.m. Saturday, September 12**, subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal

subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet and will no longer be restricted to being operated as a set net.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (including the communities of Tanana and Rampart):

Subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon is closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays**. Nets 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 manned fish wheels, 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. **Subsistence fishing in the Yukon River mainstem for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon remains closed.**

In all tributaries of the Yukon River:

Subsistence fishing for chum salmon and nonsalmon, 500 feet upstream from the mainstem Yukon River, is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with selective gear types including manned fish wheels, hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net.

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

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets remains open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice**. Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #3, #4, and #7 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.

Subdistrict 5-D (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream the U.S./Canada border, including the Teedriinjik and Porcupine rivers, all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon is closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays**. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore. **Subsistence fishing in the Yukon River mainstem for chum and coho salmon remains closed.**

In all tributaries of the Yukon River, except the Porcupine River drainage:

Subsistence fishing for chum salmon and nonsalmon, 500 feet upstream from the mainstem Yukon River, is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear.

Porcupine River drainage

Subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon remains closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays**. Nets 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.

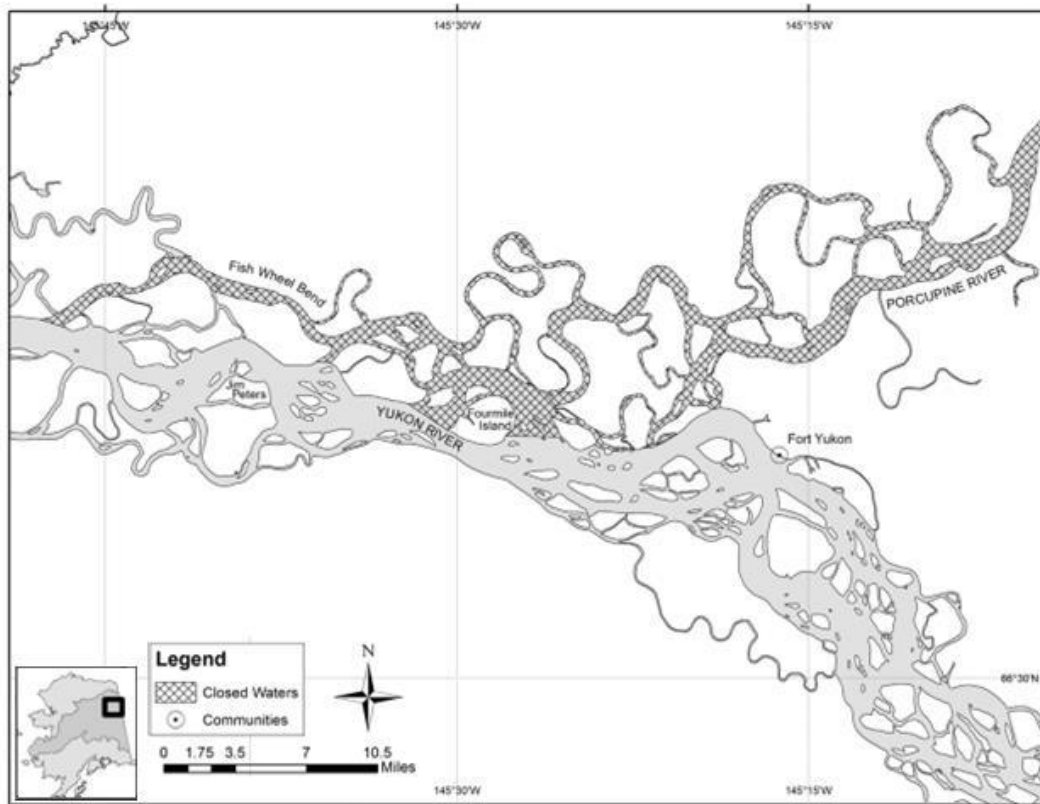


Figure 3. Map showing the Porcupine River confluence with the Yukon River.

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

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets remains open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice**. Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcement #7 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.

In Birch Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 4 inches.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

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

Subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear types, is open on the regulatory schedule of two 42 hour periods per week, from:

6:00 p.m. Mondays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Fridays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sundays

Kantishna River:

Subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear types, is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Old Minto Area:

Subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear types, is open on the regulatory schedule of five days per week per week, from:

6:00 p.m. Fridays to 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays

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):

Subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear types. including fish wheels, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. **All fish caught may be retained.**

In Lake Minchumina and the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

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.

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 fishing for chum and coho salmon is open with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, dip nets, and fish wheels on a schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

6:00 p.m. Mondays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Fridays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sundays

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 is open on the Personal Use Salmon fishing schedule listed above 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.

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. In Federal public waters, the salmon subsistence fishing opportunity is limited to federally qualified

subsistence users in the Yukon River drainage. For additional information concerning Yukon River Federal Special Actions contact the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; holly_carroll@fws.gov, (907) 351-3029 or Assistant Manager, Keith Herron; keith_herron@fws.gov, (907) 334-5391.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the USFWS.

Federal Special Actions will be posted on www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

ADF&G Advisory Announcements and fish counts can be obtained by visiting www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG or www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts.

To receive advisory announcements by email, sign up at www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov.



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