

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 3 Summer Announcement # 1, Districts 1, 2, and 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedules Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Yukon River and surrounding coastline is expected to be ice free earlier than normal. Preparations are being made now for an early Chinook salmon run which is anticipated to be extremely weak. Conservative management actions are being implemented in accordance with the preseason management plan outlined in the 2014 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook.

A precautionary management approach is being taken early in the season with gillnets being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. The intent is to have a gear restriction already in place when Chinook salmon begin their spawning migration while still providing an opportunity to fish for non-salmon species such as sheefish, traditionally harvested in the Lower Yukon immediately following break up. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered and are urged to track their non-salmon subsistence harvest. Subsistence harvest and fishing effort reports will be important information for managers when considering early season management actions.

The 2014 season will undoubtedly be another challenging year for Yukon River fishermen. ADFG and USFWS would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the fishermen of the Yukon River for their continuing efforts to conserve Chinook salmon when these stocks are so weak.

Subsistence fishing in the Coastal District and Districts 1, 2, 3 is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Coastal District: Effective 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 16, subsistence fishing will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

Fishermen in the Coastal District communities of Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay should be prepared for management actions that will close subsistence salmon fishing when the first pulse of Chinook salmon is expected to be passing through the coastal area.

District 1: Effective 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 16, subsistence fishing will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen are reminded that state waters beyond 1 mile offshore of District 1 are included in the Coastal District.

District 2: Effective 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 16, subsistence fishing will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

District 3: Subsistence fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less. Fishermen should anticipate fishing restrictions when Chinook salmon start moving into District 3.

Innoko River: Subsistence fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less. Fishermen should anticipate fishing restrictions when Chinook salmon start moving into the Innoko River.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Anchorage at 267-2217 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 455-1849.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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