

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



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Date Issued: May 29, 2014

#### **2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 8**

#### **Summer Announcement # 3, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

A very conservative management approach has been initiated early this season to protect the entire Chinook salmon run, which is anticipated to be the worst on record. Subsistence fishing for salmon has been closed in the Lower Yukon Districts 1-3. This closure is being implemented as the first Chinook salmon begin migrating through District 4. This closure is expected to be in place for most of the Chinook salmon run and will be similarly implemented in upriver fishing districts and subdistricts based on migratory timing. However, management strategies may change based on inseason run assessment information.

Non-salmon species may be harvested using 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length. However, no targeting of Chinook salmon with this gear type will be allowed. This opportunity to harvest non-salmon will be discontinued if this gear is used to target Chinook salmon. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered and are urged to track their non-salmon subsistence harvest.

Subsistence fishing opportunities to harvest summer chum salmon with fish wheels equipped with a chute or a live box will be provided in Districts 4 later, when their abundance increases. Gillnets with a mesh size of 6-inches or less typically used to target summer chum salmon are not expected to be allowed during the Chinook salmon run.

## **District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules:**

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 4-A and the time it takes salmon to migrate through this section of river, this subdistrict will be further subdivided into two separate management areas. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when altering the subsistence fishing schedule to conserve Chinook salmon.

**Subdistrict 4-A Lower** (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 31, subsistence fishing for salmon will close. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

**Subdistrict 4-A Upper** (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, subsistence fishing for salmon will close. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

**Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C** (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, subsistence fishing for salmon will close. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

**Koyukuk 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 be prepared for management actions that will close subsistence salmon fishing when the first pulse of Chinook salmon is expected to be migrating into the Koyukuk River.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at 949-1320 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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