

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eric Newland, Area Management Biologist
Lower Yukon Office
PO Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Geoffrey L. Haskett, Regional Director
Gene Peltola, Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

Date Issued: May 30, 2014

2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 9

Summer Announcement # 4, Districts 1, 2, and 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The preseason outlook for the 2014 summer chum salmon run is projected to be 1.5 to 1.8 million fish and is anticipated to provide for escapement, a normal subsistence harvest, and a commercially harvestable surplus range of 500,000 to 800,000 fish. Initial management of the summer chum salmon run will be based on the expectation that the 2014 run size will likely be near the upper end of this range.

Assessment information from the cooperative test fishery program operated near Emmonak is promising. Early indications are that summer chum salmon are entering the river in low numbers at this time. Based on the preseason projection, the summer chum salmon dip net subsistence fishery in the Lower Yukon Districts 1-3 will open at 8:00 a.m. Sunday, June 1.

The department is encouraging subsistence dip net fishermen to report their harvest information. These reports will be useful for managing this early portion of the salmon runs.

The department will notify fishermen by Saturday, June 7, regarding further summer chum subsistence dip net opportunity and the potential for commercial opportunity.

The current subsistence fishing schedules are as follows:

District 1 (including the Black River) District 2 and District 3: Subsistence fishing for salmon is currently closed. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Effective 8:00 a.m. Sunday, June 1, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in Districts 1, 2, and 3 will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip net gear only.

Subsistence dip net fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from this gear type. This requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced.

Subsistence fishermen unfamiliar with this gear type are encouraged to communicate with fishermen that used this gear type during the 2013 season. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully. Fishermen are also strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook may be encountered.

Coastal District: As in recent years, the Coastal District has been subdivided into two management areas to allow for more management precision and flexibility. Fishermen are reminded that state waters beyond 1 mile offshore of District 1 are included in the Coastal District.

In the **Northern Portion of the Coastal District** from 62 degrees North latitude to Point Romanof and 3 miles offshore, subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and will remain closed until further notice. Management actions taken in the northern portion of the Coastal District will be coordinated with actions taken in District 1 to provide protection to Chinook salmon prior to entering the river.

In the **Southern Portion of the Coastal District**, from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62° North latitude, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

However, subsistence fishermen in the **Southern Portion of the Coastal District** 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.

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 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 Innoko River.

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.

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.

-end-