

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 11**

#### **Summer Announcement # 5, Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

A very conservative management approach has been initiated early this season in the lower Yukon River to protect the entire Chinook salmon run, which is anticipated to be the worst on record. A subsistence salmon fishing closure is now being implemented as the first Chinook salmon begin migrating through Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. This closure is expected to be in place for most of the Chinook salmon run and will be similarly implemented in Subdistrict 5-D 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 and no targeting of Chinook salmon with this gear type will be allowed. This opportunity to harvest non-salmon will be discontinued if this small mesh 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.

Limited subsistence fishing opportunities to harvest summer chum salmon with fish wheels equipped with a chute or a live box may be provided in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C later. 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.

**Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

**Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, & 5-C** (from Illinois Creek upstream to regulatory markers 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek): This area includes the communities of Tanana and Rampart as well as the area near the Yukon River Bridge.

Subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C 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, June 7, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C 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.

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 Emmonak at 949-1798.

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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