

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 15**

#### **Summer Announcement # 8, Koyukuk River, Innoko River, and District 4**

#### **Subsistence Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

A very conservative management approach has been initiated early this season on the mainstem Yukon River to protect the entire Chinook salmon run, which is anticipated to be one of the worst on record. Consistent with these measures, a subsistence salmon fishing closure is now being implemented in the Koyukuk and Innoko Rivers. These closures are expected to be in place to protect discrete pulses of Chinook salmon. However, further management actions such as gear restrictions are likely to be implemented following these closures to allow for summer chum salmon harvest.

**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. However, subsistence salmon fishing will close when the first pulse of Chinook salmon is expected to be migrating into the Koyukuk River.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, subsistence salmon fishing will close to conserve Chinook salmon stocks in the Koyukuk River.

**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. However, subsistence salmon fishing will close when the first pulse of Innoko River bound Chinook salmon is expected to be migrating into the lower river tributary.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 19, subsistence salmon fishing will close to conserve Chinook salmon stocks in the Innoko River.

**District 4:** Subsistence salmon fishing in District 4 is currently closed. However, the department will continue to monitor the summer chum salmon run to determine when fishing opportunities will be provided with fish wheels and dip nets. Similar to the last several years, fish wheels used for subsistence purposes will be required to be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fishermen will be required to closely attend to fish wheels while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

The department will notify fishermen by Monday June 23 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedules in the Koyukuk and Innoko Rivers and District 4.

Non-salmon species may be harvested using 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length in all areas of the Yukon River during subsistence salmon fishing closures. 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 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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