

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



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Date Issued: June 17, 2014

**2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 17
Summer Announcement # 9, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The preseason outlook for the 2014 summer chum salmon run is projected to be 1.5 to 1.8 million fish which would be sufficient 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. However, management will continue to be cautious in order to protect the weak Chinook salmon run and gear will be restricted to those types that allow for the release of Chinook salmon.

The summer chum salmon run continues to build in the lower river and the cumulative summer chum salmon passage by the sonar project near Pilot Station through June 16 is estimated to be approximately 391,000 fish. An initial group of summer chum salmon passed by the sonar project from June 10 through June 11 and is expected to begin transiting through the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A on June 17. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunity with selective fishing gear is being provided in District 4 to begin harvesting this early portion of the summer chum salmon run as the stocks migrate into the area.

District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules:

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, including all adjacent tributary rivers and mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling):

Subsistence fishing for salmon is currently closed in all portions of Subdistrict 4-A Lower.

Effective 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in the **Anvik River Special Management Area** (which includes the lower 12 miles of the Anvik River) will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip nets and beach seine gear only.

Effective 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in the remainder of Subdistrict 4-A Lower will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip net gear and live-release fish wheels only.

Subsistence dip net and beach seine fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box and closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must also be returned to the water alive.

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 for salmon is currently closed in Subdistrict 4-A Upper.

Effective 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 23, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A Upper will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip net gear and live-release fish wheels only. Subsistence dip net fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from this gear type. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box and closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

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 for salmon is currently closed in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C.

Effective 8:00 a.m. Thursday, June 26, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip net gear and live-release fish wheels only. Subsistence dip net fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from this gear type. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box and closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

These requirements to release all Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to ensure 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.

Subsistence fishermen unfamiliar with dip net gear are encouraged to communicate with Lower Yukon fishermen that have used this gear. Additionally, the following link has several video clips that fishermen may find useful for developing dip netting techniques.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreaInteriorChitina.video>

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.

As previously announced, effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, subsistence salmon fishing will close to conserve Chinook salmon stocks in the Koyukuk River. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches must be removed from the water.

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 Area 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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