

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 18

Summer Announcement #10, District 1 and District 2 Subsistence and

Commercial Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The 2014 summer chum salmon run appears to be in full swing as indicated by elevated test fishery indices, sonar counts, and recent commercial harvest information. The summer chum salmon passage estimate at the sonar project near Pilot Station through June 18 is approximately 530,000 fish which is above the historical median of 123,300 for this date. The preliminary commercial harvest for Districts 1 and 2 combined through June 18 is approximately 83,300 summer chum salmon with a reported 2,300 Chinook salmon released alive. Summer chum salmon catch rates are expected to improve with dip net and beach seine gear as we near the middle of the summer run. A cautious management approach will continue to be applied in order to protect the weak Chinook salmon run. Both commercial and subsistence salmon fishing gear will continue to be restricted to gear types that allow for the immediate release of Chinook salmon.

As a reminder, the current fishing schedules in District 1 and District 2 include daily concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods Sunday through Friday. Saturdays of each week are dedicated to only subsistence fishing. Since the bulk of the summer chum salmon run is expected to move through the lower river in the next week and catch rates with the new gear types should correspondingly increase, the department is encouraging fishermen to capitalize on this opportunity to subsistence fish for summer chum salmon. The department is also encouraging commercial fishermen experienced with dip nets and beach seines to coordinate effort and gear with subsistence fishermen who may not have acquired or may be less familiar with using the new gear types.

Again ADFG and USFWS would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the fishermen of the Yukon River for their flexibility and willingness to try these new gear types as part of their continuing efforts to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement.

The previously announced subsistence and commercial fishing schedules remain in place.

District 1 (including the Black River) Subsistence:

Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in District 1 will remain on the following schedule with dip net and beach seine gear only until further notice:

- Sunday-Friday from 12:00 noon until 12:00 midnight each day
- Saturday from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight

District 1 (including the Black River) Commercial:

Commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 1 will remain on the following schedule with dip net and beach seine gear only until further notice:

- Sunday-Friday from 12:00 noon until 12:00 midnight each day

These will be 12-hour commercial fishing periods that are open concurrent with subsistence fishing times.

District 2 Subsistence: Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in District 2 will remain on the following schedule with dip net and beach seine gear only until further notice:

- Sunday-Friday 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m. each day
- Saturday from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight

District 2: Commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 2 will remain on the following schedule with dip net and beach seine gear only until further notice:

- Sunday-Friday 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m. each day

These will be 10-hour commercial fishing periods that are open concurrent with subsistence fishing times.

Fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. This requirement will be strictly enforced. Fishermen are reminded that great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach.

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 ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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