

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #19

Summer Announcement #11, District 4-A Commercial Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar passage estimate of 730,000 summer chum salmon through June 20 is well above the median of 245,000 for this date. Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon, commercial fishing opportunity is being allowed to target summer chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A with fish wheels only.

Currently, there is a market for summer chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A. Based on summer chum salmon migration timing, the commercial fishing season will open in Subdistrict 4-A effective Monday, June 23. A cautious management approach will continue to be applied in order to protect the weak Chinook salmon run. Regulations allow the department to open summer chum salmon directed commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 4-A during times of Chinook salmon conservation with fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operations and all Chinook salmon caught in the fish wheels must immediately be released to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket.

The department is reminding Subdistrict 4-A fishermen that commercial fish wheels must be constructed in a manner that includes:

- a) basket sides and bottoms consisting of soft mesh material similar to or made of seine web; and
- b) an adjustable or fixed slide or chute that consists of a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined sides; and
- c) returns Chinook salmon immediately to the water.

These construction specifications for commercial fish wheels are intended to reduce the potential for injuring Chinook salmon while being released. Additionally, in 2014, the Board of Fisheries

adopted a new regulation that authorizes the use of leads with commercial fish wheels, which aligned regulations with a long standing practice.

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point):

Commercial fishing will be open for seven 24-hour fishing periods, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 23.

Period #1: Monday, June 23

Period #2: Tuesday, June 24

Period #3: Wednesday, June 25

Period #4: Thursday, June 26

Period #5: Friday, June 27

Period #6: Saturday, June 28

Period #7: Sunday, June 29

Fishermen will be notified by Saturday, June 28, regarding additional commercial fishing opportunity.

Commercial fishermen should confirm their market before they fish. Commercial fishing will be restricted to fish wheels only that must be manned at all times of operation. All Chinook salmon caught in the fish wheels must be immediately returned to the water alive.

All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. Other salmon harvested and not sold should be recorded on the fish ticket as “not sold”. These commercial fishing periods do not affect current subsistence management actions and fishing schedules.

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 in Fairbanks at 459-7274.

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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