

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 22

Summer Announcement #13, District 1 and District 2 Subsistence and

Commercial Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Recent Chinook salmon catch rates have declined in the Lower Yukon test fishery program indicating the Chinook salmon run may be starting to taper off in the lower river. Accounting for early run timing, the 2014 Chinook salmon run is estimated to be approximately 88% complete as of June 25. The cumulative Chinook salmon passage at the sonar project located near Pilot Station through June 25 is estimated to be approximately 110,600 fish. Incorporating the uncertainty associated with this estimate, the 2014 run size is on track to be near the high end of the preseason outlook range of 64,000 to 121,000. A Chinook salmon run size of this magnitude is still lower than average, but has the potential to meet escapement goals and objectives. However, a run of this size does not warrant Chinook salmon directed harvest opportunities especially considering the recent trend in poor escapement performance. A cautious management approach will continue to be applied in order to protect the weak Chinook salmon run.

Meanwhile the summer chum salmon run appears to be in full swing. The summer chum salmon passage estimate at the sonar project near Pilot Station through June 25 is approximately 1.2 million fish which is above the historical median of 705,100 for this date. In an effort to provide subsistence opportunity to maximize summer chum salmon harvest effort, an adjustment is being made to the subsistence fishing schedule in District 1 and District 2 for the subsistence only fishing period scheduled for Saturday, June 28.

District 1 Special Subsistence Only Period:

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open in District 1 for one 3-hour period from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size only to target summer chum salmon. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in the 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets may be kept for subsistence purposes. No dip net or beach seine gear opportunity will be provided on this day.

District 2 Special Subsistence Only Period:

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open in District 2 for one 3-hour period from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size only to target summer chum salmon. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in the 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets may be kept for subsistence purposes. No dip net or beach seine gear opportunity will be provided on this day.

On Sunday, June 29, subsistence and commercial fishing will resume on the previously announced schedules with dip net and beach seine gear only.

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

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

District 2 Commercial: 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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