

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



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**2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 24
Summer Announcement #15, Subsistence Fishing Gear Restriction in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B,
and 5-C
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area**

The primary management strategy this season has been to hold the Yukon River Chinook salmon harvest as low as possible because recent year escapements have been consistently poor. Throughout the drainage, opportunity has been allowed to target non-salmon fish species, such as sheefish, whitefish, and pike with 4-inch or smaller mesh size gill nets. Unfortunately, enforcement and public reports are becoming increasingly more common that this gear is being used to target Chinook salmon in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C. The majority of the Chinook salmon stocks bound for spawning grounds in Canada are expected to be migrating through this area for more than 10 days and require continued protection. Consequently, the opportunity to harvest non-salmon fish species with small mesh gillnets during subsistence salmon fishing closures is being discontinued in this local area to protect Chinook salmon migrating to the upper Yukon River.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 30, use of 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will be closed until further notice. This opportunity will be reinstated after the majority of the run of Chinook salmon have passed or when assessment is highly confident escapement goals will be met. The department and USFWS are very appreciative for the many people up and down the river who have made a great sacrifice to conserve Yukon River Chinook salmon this season.

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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