

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 39

Summer Announcement # 38, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The cumulative Chinook salmon passage through July 7 is estimated to be approximately 132,000 fish. A run size of this magnitude is below average, but has the potential to meet escapement goals and objectives. The summer chum salmon passage estimate at the sonar project through July 7 is approximately 1.75 million fish which is above the historical median of 1.65 million fish for this date. As the Chinook salmon run comes to an end in the middle river, subsistence salmon fishing restriction and closures will be relaxed chronologically with the upriver migration. In an effort to provide opportunity to maximize summer chum salmon harvest effort, adjustments are being made to the subsistence fishing schedule in District 4. The opportunity to use selective fishing gear such as dip nets and beach seines will be discontinued as the use of 6-inch gillnets is reinstated to target summer chum salmon during regularly scheduled subsistence fishing periods. However, fishermen are reminded the use of drift gillnets in Subdistrict 4-A closes by regulation on Monday, July 14.

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):

Anvik River Special Management Area: Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in this special management area (which includes the lower 12 miles of the Anvik River) is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip nets and beach seine gear only. Subsistence dip net and beach seine fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from this gear type.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 10, this special management area will close to subsistence salmon fishing.

In the remainder of Subdistrict 4-A Lower, subsistence salmon fishing is currently 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.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 10, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon with dip nets will be discontinued and the use of 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets will be allowed.

Subsistence fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 10, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 11, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

Beginning Sunday, July 13, subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 4-A Lower will return to the regular subsistence fishing schedule which consists of two 48-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and live release fish wheels.

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 summer chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A Upper is currently 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.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 14, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon with dip nets will be discontinued and the use of 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets will be allowed.

Subsistence fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 14, until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fishermen are reminded the use of drift gillnets in Subdistrict 4-A closes by regulation at midnight on Monday, July 14. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

Beginning Wednesday, July 16, subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 4-A Upper will return to the regular subsistence fishing schedule which consists of two 48-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and live release fish wheels.

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 summer chum salmon in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C is currently 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.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon with dip nets will be discontinued and the use of 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets will be allowed.

Subsistence fishing will return to the regular fishing schedule in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

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.

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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