

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #46

Summer Announcement #34, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The cumulative Chinook salmon passage at the sonar project located near Pilot Station through July 17 is estimated to be approximately 136,500 fish. Incorporating the uncertainty associated with this estimate, the 2014 run is better than anticipated preseason and has the potential to meet escapement goals and objectives as a result of conservation efforts, but is still well below average.

The 2014 Chinook salmon run is nearly over in the Middle Yukon. Therefore, the subsistence fishing restrictions in District 4 are being discontinued.

District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules:

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point, including all adjacent tributary rivers and mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 4-A is currently open for 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 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.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 20 the requirement to release Chinook salmon alive from fish wheels and the 6-inch or smaller mesh size restriction are being discontinued in all of Subdistrict 4-A (including 4-A Lower and 4-A Upper).

Therefore subsistence fishing in all of Subdistrict 4-A will be open 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 fish wheels or fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

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 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.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, the requirement to release Chinook salmon alive from fish wheels and the 6-inch or smaller mesh size restriction are being discontinued in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C.

Therefore subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C will be open 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 fish wheels or fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

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.

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 protect Koyukuk River Chinook salmon stocks on their way to the spawning areas.

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 Fairbanks at 459-7274.

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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