

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



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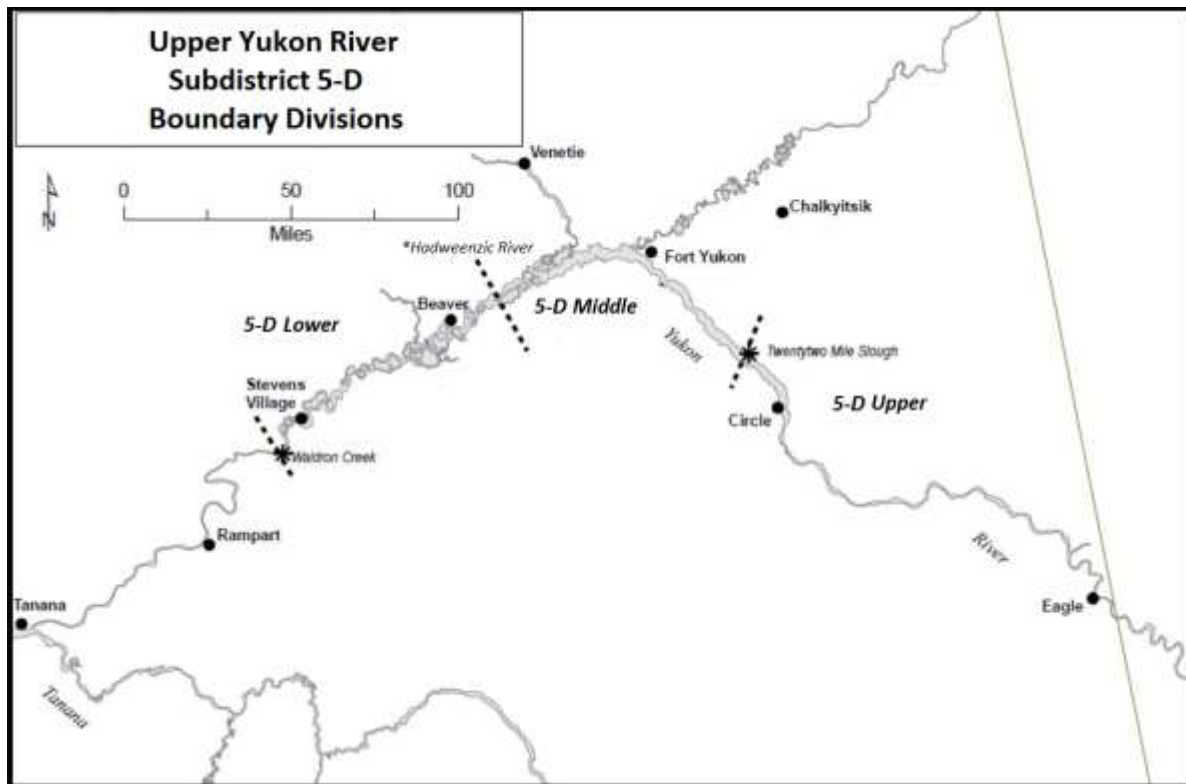
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2014 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #54 Summer Announcement #41, Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing Schedule Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

After approximately two weeks of daily passage estimates exceeding 2,000 Chinook salmon per day, sonar passage counts have declined these past few days. The cumulative passage estimate for Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar through July 28 is approximately 56,200 fish. As a result of considerable conservation efforts in Alaska, the amount of Chinook salmon passed into Canada is sufficient to achieve the upper end of the Canadian escapement objective of 42,500 – 55,000, despite being below average in run size. The preliminary projection for Canadian-origin Chinook salmon based on cumulative passage at the Eagle sonar project and historical run timing is approximately 59,000 – 60,000. As of July 28, the Chinook salmon run was approximately 95% complete at Circle, which is located in Subdistrict Upper 5-D.

Therefore, the subsistence fishing restrictions are being discontinued in Subdistrict 5-D Lower and Subdistrict 5-D Middle during the course of this week as the end of the Chinook salmon run passed out of each portion of the subdistrict.

The department will notify fishermen again by Monday, August 4, concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Subdistrict 5-D Upper.



Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subdistrict 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day 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 30, the requirement to release Chinook salmon alive from fish wheels and the 6-inch or smaller mesh size restriction are being discontinued in Subdistrict 5-D Lower.

Therefore subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Lower will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including the Porcupine River and all other adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Venetie, Fort Yukon, and Chalkyitsik):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day 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. Saturday, August 2, the requirement to release Chinook salmon alive from fish wheels and the 6-inch or smaller mesh size restriction are being discontinued in Subdistrict 5-D Middle.

Therefore subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Middle will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 1, the subsistence salmon fishing closure will end in 5-D Upper and will then be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day 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. Subsistence fishing restriction in this management portion will be fully relaxed later as the end of the Chinook salmon run move out of the area.

As a reminder non-salmon species may be harvested using 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length 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 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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