

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



---

Contact:  
Jeff Estensen, Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 459-7217  
Fax: (907) 459-7271

Fairbanks Area Office  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Date Issued: 9/9/14

#### **2014 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 38**

#### **Fall Update # 7, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

#### **Fall Assessment**

At this time, the fall season is winding down in the Lower Yukon Area with most of the fall chum and coho salmon in the middle portion of the drainage spread up through the spawning grounds. The run sizes of both fall chum and coho salmon should be adequate to meet escapement and provide for an above average subsistence harvest, personal use, and commercial harvests. The current preliminary estimate of fall chum salmon run size is greater than 805,000 fish and a record coho salmon run of greater than 300,000 fish. Escapement enumeration is ongoing with most projects trying to operate through the end of September and into October for the Canadian assessment projects.

#### **Fall Season Assessment Projects**

##### Lower Yukon River Cooperative Fall Drift Test Fishing/ YDFDA, ADF&G

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through September 8 was 2,521.55, which is above the historical average of 1,249.15 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through September 8 was 754.26, which is above the historical average of 382.16 for this date.

##### Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing/Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council and BSFA

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through September 8 was 1,176.53, which is below the historical median of 2,069.50. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through September 8 was 674.41, which is below the historical average of 1,064.20 for this date.

##### Mainstem Sonar Project near Pilot Station/ ADF&G

Pilot Station sonar project ceased operations for the season on September 7. The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through September 7 is approximately 650,400 fish, which is

above the median passage of approximately 615,000 fish for this date. The cumulative coho salmon passage estimate through September 7 is approximately 247,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 132,000 fish for this date.

#### Rapids Video Test Fish Wheel/Zuray

The project began counting fall chum salmon on August 3 based on flesh color. The cumulative CPUE from July 21 through September 8 is 22,223 chum salmon which is above the historical median of 19,744 fish for this date. The estimate adjusted for water levels is below average for this date.

#### Chandalar River Sonar/USFWS

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through September 8 is approximately 87,700 fish which is well above the median of 79,600 fish for that date. The lower end of the escapement goal range has been achieved (74,000 to 152,000 fall chum salmon).

#### Mainstem Sonar Project near Eagle/ADF&G & DFO

The mainstem sonar near Eagle began counting fall chum salmon on August 13. The cumulative estimated passage as of September 8 is approximately 32,300 fall chum salmon which is above the historical median of 19,600 for this date.

#### Upper Porcupine River Sonar/DFO

The mainstem sonar project located downstream of Old Crow and upstream of the U.S./Canada border began counting fall chum salmon on August 12. This startup date allowed estimation of the early group of fish. The cumulative estimated passage through September 6 is approximately 7,900 fall chum salmon which is slightly above average compared to the feasibility years of data.

#### Manley Test Fish Wheel/ADF&G

The test fish wheel operated near Manley on the Tanana River as part of the sonar project began counting chum salmon August 9. The cumulative chum salmon CPUE for the project through September 8 was 4,387, which is below the historical average of 5,317 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through September 8 was 802, which is above the historical average of 498 for this date.

#### Stock Identification

The last strata from August 25 through September 7 are on the way to the lab and results should be available for the next update.

#### **Summer Chum Salmon Radiotelemetry Project – Russian Mission**

Tagging operations for the summer chum salmon radio telemetry research project began June 12 upriver from the community of Russian Mission and concluded on July 13. Approximately 1,200 summer chum salmon were tagged and released with a white spaghetti tag located at the base of the dorsal fin for identification purposes. If a tagged chum salmon is harvested, please note the date, time, and location and return the tag to the address listed on the outside of the radio tag. Data analysis will be ongoing through the winter and updates on the project will be provided at various fisheries meetings. If you have any further questions about the project feel free to contact Stephanie Schmidt or Sean Larson with ADF&G ([stephanie.schmidt@alaska.gov](mailto:stephanie.schmidt@alaska.gov) or [sean.larson@alaska.gov](mailto:sean.larson@alaska.gov)).

## **Fall Season Management Strategies**

Subsistence: The department anticipates all districts remaining on their current schedules for the remainder of the fall season.

Commercial Fisheries: The fall chum salmon directed commercial fishery in Districts 1 and 2 closed by regulation after August 31. By regulation, a coho salmon directed commercial fishery can occur from September 1 through September 10. At this time, the buyers have concluded purchasing salmon in the Lower Yukon Area.

Commercial fishing in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C is on a 5 day per week schedule from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays. There is currently no buyer operating in either subdistrict. Commercial fishermen must confirm their buyer prior to commercial fishing. Processors, catcher sellers, or direct marketers are required to notify the department of their intent by contacting the Fairbanks office at 459-7274.

Commercial fishing in District 6 is on a two 42-hour period per week schedule from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays. There is currently no buyer operating in District 6. Commercial fishermen must confirm their buyer prior to commercial fishing. Processors, catcher sellers, or direct marketers are required to notify the department of their intent by contacting the Fairbanks office at 459-7274.

## **Fall Season Commercial Salmon Fishing**

### Preliminary harvest information for District 1:

Period #12: 9 hours, 62 permit holders; 373 fall chum/3,455 lbs and 971 coho salmon/6,454 lbs.

The total cumulative commercial harvest in District 1 is 51,807 fall chum salmon and 54,673 coho salmon.

The total cumulative commercial harvest in District 2 is 61,669 fall chum salmon and 46,023 coho salmon.

### Preliminary harvest information for Subdistricts 5-A and 5-B:

The total cumulative commercial harvest in Subdistricts 5-A and 5-B is 1,264 fall chum/9,477 lbs.

### Preliminary harvest information for Districts 6:

The total cumulative commercial harvest in Districts 6 is 995 fall chum/6,825 lbs and 506 coho/2,485 lbs.

## **Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

**Coastal District:** Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

### **District 1 (including the Black River) and District 2:**

Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial salmon fishing period and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

### **District 3:**

For the entire District 3 including the Innoko River, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

### **District 4:**

For the entire District 4 including the Koyukuk River, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

The use of subsistence **drift gillnet gear** is allowed in the portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek.

### **District 5:**

Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistricts 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the Dall River and from the upstream mouth of 22-Mile Slough to the US/Canada Border. Subsistence fishermen outside of the permit area are encouraged to fill out their subsistence salmon catch calendars. Calendars are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

**Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B** (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the regulatory marker at the mouth of Wood River, which includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B consists of two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays, and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

### **Old Minto Area:**

Subsistence salmon fishing in The Old Minto Area is open from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

**Subdistricts 6-C** (from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Personal use salmon fishing in Subdistrict 6-C is open on the normal schedule which consists of two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays, and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Please note: Fishermen planning to personal use fish for whitefish and sucker in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, are required to contact the Fairbanks Fish and Game office to obtain a Personal Use Whitefish and Sucker permit.

**Upper Tanana Area** (the Tanana River from the confluence with the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank upstream to the Tanana River headwaters): This area includes the communities of Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross,

Northway, and the Tok area.

Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day. Fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a fishing permit is required to fish for salmon in all of District 6 and the Upper Tanana 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.

-end-