

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 7  
Summer Announcement # 4, Yukon River District 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedule**  
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

A very conservative management approach is being taken early in the season to protect the 2015 Chinook salmon run, which is anticipated to be weak. Conservative management actions are being implemented in accordance with the preseason management plan discussed at the preseason planning meeting and outlined in the 2015 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook. Subsistence salmon fishing was closed in the Northern portion of the Coastal District and Districts 1 and 2 on May 30 to protect Chinook salmon entering the river and migrating upstream.

Following management actions already taken in the Coastal District and Districts 1 and 2, effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, subsistence salmon fishing will close in District 3. Fishermen can use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets with a maximum length of 60 feet to target non-salmon species. The intent is to allow non-salmon species to be harvested while avoiding Chinook salmon. This opportunity to harvest non-salmon species may be reduced or discontinued if this gear is used to target Chinook salmon. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

Restrictions are expected to be in place for most of the Chinook salmon run. Similar actions will be taken in upriver Yukon River districts in an effort to protect Chinook salmon all the way to their spawning grounds. Management strategies may change based on inseason run assessment information.

Subsistence fishing opportunities to harvest summer chum salmon with dip nets will be provided in District 3 when summer chum salmon abundance increases.

The 2015 season will undoubtedly be another challenging year for Yukon River fishermen. ADF&G and USFWS would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the fishermen of the Yukon River for their continuing efforts to share in Chinook salmon conservation when these run sizes are well-below average.

### **Current Management**

The current subsistence fishing schedules are as follows:

**District 3:** Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, subsistence salmon fishing in District 3 is closed until further notice. All gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh size may be used during the closure, but may not exceed 60-feet in length.

**Innoko River:** Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less. Fishermen should be prepared for management actions that will close subsistence salmon fishing when the first pulse of Chinook salmon is expected to be migrating into the Innoko River.

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 ADF&G office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 455-1849.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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