

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 8
Summer Announcement # 5, Yukon River District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**
Districts Affected: Upper 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 fishing for salmon has been closed in the Northern Portion of the Coastal District and in Districts 1–2, and a closure will be effective in District 3 at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, June 4.

Following the precautionary management actions that have been taken this season in lower river districts, subsistence salmon fishing is also being closed in Subdistrict 4-A. Additionally, Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C are being restricted to gillnets with 6-inch or smaller mesh size. The intent is to have gear restrictions already in place before Chinook salmon begin their spawning migration through these areas while still providing an opportunity to fish for early summer chum salmon and non-salmon species. Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C should anticipate subsistence salmon fishing closures once Chinook salmon begin moving through the subdistricts.

In areas where subsistence salmon fishing is closed, gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets to target non-salmon species while avoiding Chinook salmon. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon may be encountered. Fishery managers appreciate any subsistence harvest and fishing effort reports as they provide important information when considering early season management actions.

Subsistence fishing opportunities to harvest summer chum salmon with dip nets and fish wheels equipped with a chute or live box will be provided in District 4 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 subsistence fishing reports and their continuing efforts to share in Chinook salmon conservation when these run sizes are well-below average.

District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules:

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 4-A and the time it takes salmon to migrate through this section of river, this subdistrict will be further subdivided into two separate management areas. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when altering the subsistence fishing schedule to conserve Chinook salmon.

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling):

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

Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen may use fish wheels, however, fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 5, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed until further notice. All gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh size may be used during the closure, but may not exceed 60-feet in length.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

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

Effective 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen may use fish wheels, however, fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 8, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed until further notice. All gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh size may be used during the closure, but may not exceed 60-feet in length.

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 is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen may use fish wheels, however, fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

Koyukuk 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 Koyukuk 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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