

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



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 9
Summer Announcement # 6, Yukon River Districts 1 and 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedules
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The preseason outlook for the 2015 summer chum salmon run is projected to be 1.8 to 2.4 million fish and is anticipated to provide for escapement, a normal subsistence harvest, and a commercially harvestable surplus range of 800,000 to 1,400,000 fish. Initial management of the summer chum salmon run will be based on the expectation that the 2015 run size will likely be near the upper end of this range, similar to recent years.

The first summer chum salmon harvested for subsistence was reportedly caught on May 23. The first summer chum salmon caught in the 5.5" drift test fishery in Big Eddy was caught on May 24. Assessment information from the cooperative test fishery program indicates that the summer chum salmon run has slowly been moving into the river in low numbers over the past week. However, favorable winds are forecasted over the weekend that may potentially bring more significant groups of summer chum salmon into the river. Therefore, the summer chum salmon dip net subsistence fishery in Districts 1 and 2 will open at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6. Fishermen should be aware that this subsistence dip net opening is early in the summer chum salmon run and catches may be low. Additionally, fishermen are reminded that all Chinook salmon caught in dip nets must be released alive immediately.

The department encourages subsistence dip net fishermen to report their harvest information. These reports are useful for managing this early portion of the summer chum salmon run.

The current subsistence fishing schedules are as follows:

District 1 (including the Black River) and District 2: Subsistence fishing for salmon is currently closed. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in Districts 1 and 2 will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip net gear only.

Subsistence dip net fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from this gear type. This requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced.

Subsistence fishermen unfamiliar with this gear type are encouraged to communicate with fishermen that used this gear type during the 2014 season. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully. Fishermen are also strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

Coastal District: As in recent years, the Coastal District will be further subdivided into two management areas to allow for more management precision and flexibility. Fishermen are reminded that state waters beyond 1 mile offshore of District 1 are included in the Coastal District.

In the **Northern Portion of the Coastal District** from 62 degrees North latitude to Point Romanof and including all state marine waters, subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and will remain closed until further notice.

In the **Southern Portion of the Coastal District**, from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62° North latitude which includes marine waters near Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

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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