

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 12

Summer Announcement # 9, Yukon River District 3 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 level, and a commercially harvestable surplus in the 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.

Assessment information from the cooperative Lower Yukon Test Fishery program indicates that the summer chum salmon run has been moving into the river in low numbers over the past week. However, favorable winds over the weekend were expected to bring significant groups of summer chum salmon into the river. Therefore, the summer chum salmon dip net subsistence fishery in Districts 1 and 2 opened over the weekend. Subsistence fishermen in Districts 1 and 2 reported relatively low catches of summer chum salmon in dip net gear at the start.

The sonar project near Pilot Station estimated approximately 4,773 summer chum salmon passing by the sonar on June 7. These summer chum salmon are expected to reach Russian Mission approximately June 11. Therefore, subsistence salmon fishing with dip net gear only in District 3 will open at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10. 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.

Current Management

The current subsistence fishing schedules are as follows:

District 3: Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed to conserve Chinook salmon. 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 for non-salmon species, but may not exceed 60-feet in length.

Effective at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in District 3 will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week 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.

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 may restrict or 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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