

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



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#### **2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 16**

#### **Summer Announcement # 12, Yukon River Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C**

#### **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. Fishery 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 closures have been initiated in the Northern Portion of the Coastal District and Districts 1–4. Districts 1–3 have recently re-opened to subsistence salmon fishing with dip nets only to target summer chum salmon. Subsistence fishermen using dip nets are required to release all Chinook salmon to the water alive.

The first Chinook salmon was caught in the Lower Yukon Test Fishery on May 28. Based on historical migration timing, the first Chinook salmon is expected to be near Tanana on June 14. Consistent with management restrictions taken this season in Districts 1–4, this announcement closes subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C.

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. Fishery managers appreciate any subsistence harvest and fishing effort reports as they provide important information when considering early season management actions.

**Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

**Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, & 5-C** (from Illinois Creek upstream to regulatory markers two miles downstream of Waldron Creek): This area includes the communities of Tanana and Rampart as well as the area near the Yukon River Bridge.

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation, or be equipped with a live box and checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released to the water alive.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will be closed until further notice. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species. If a salmon is caught in this gear type, it is legal to retain it. However, this opportunity to harvest non-salmon species may be reduced or discontinued if it is found that this gear is being used to target Chinook salmon. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

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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