

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 17

Summer Announcement # 13, Yukon River Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing

Schedule

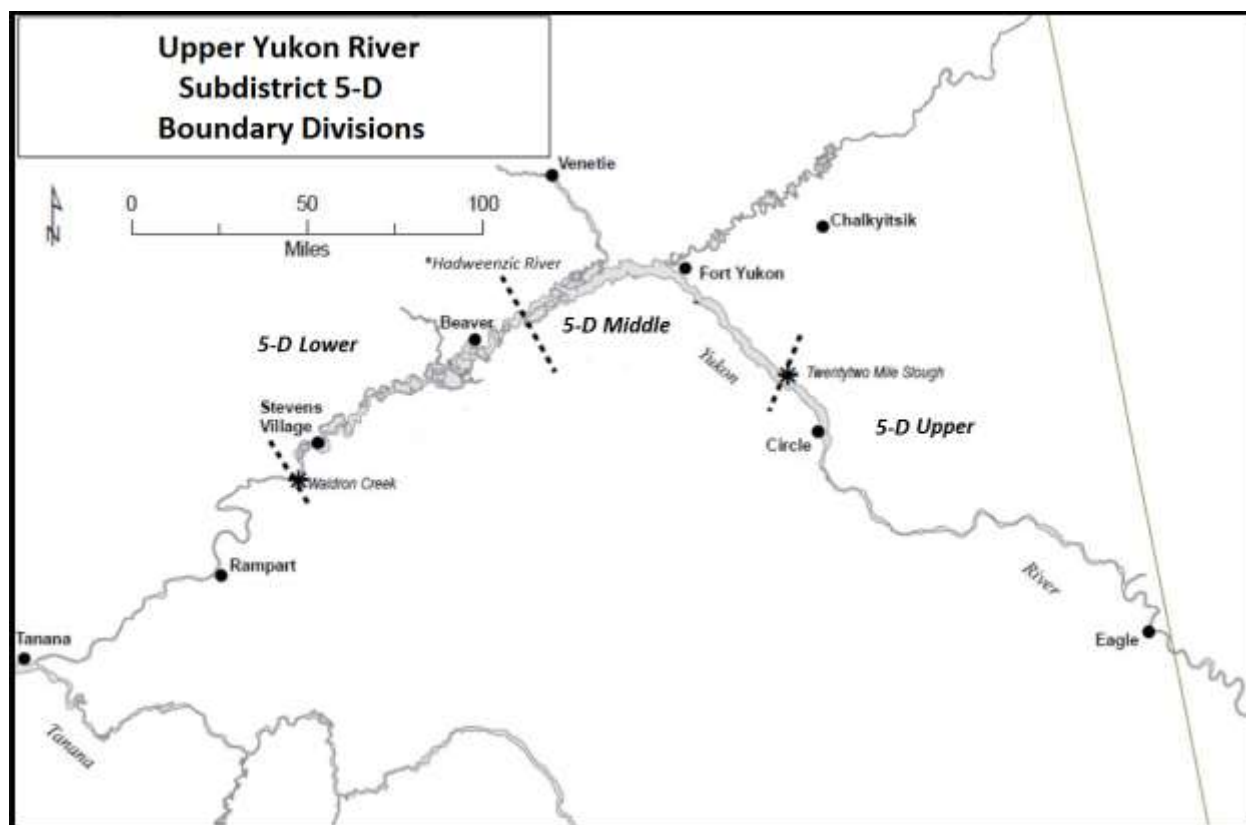
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

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. The first Chinook salmon was caught in the Lower Yukon Test Fishery on May 28. Based on historical migration timing, the first Chinook salmon are expected to be near Stevens Village on June 18, near Fort Yukon on June 22, and near Circle on June 24.

Consistent with management restrictions taken in the lower river, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 5-D is being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. The intent is to have gear restrictions already in place before Chinook salmon begin their spawning migration through this subdistrict while still providing an opportunity to fish for non-salmon species. Subsistence salmon closures will be similarly implemented in Subdistrict 5-D once Chinook salmon begin moving through the subdistrict.

Fishermen are 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.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 5-D and the long time it takes salmon to migrate all the way through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when implementing management actions to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 5-D will be divided into three areas (Map 1):



Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subdistrict 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Lower 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 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 15, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Lower 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, or be equipped with a live box that is checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released to the water alive.

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including the Porcupine River and all other adjacent tributaries):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Middle 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 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 19, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Middle 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, or be equipped with a live box that is checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released to the water alive.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Upper 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 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 21, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Upper 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, or be equipped with a live box that is checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released to the water alive.

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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