

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Stephanie Schmidt, Area Management Biologist
Sabrina Garcia, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Office
PO Box 127
Emmonak, Alaska 99581

Date Issued: 6/13/2015

**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 18
Summer Announcement #14, Yukon River District 1 and District 2 Commercial and
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 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. However, management will continue to be cautious in order to protect the overlapping, weak Chinook salmon run expected in 2015.

Based on the preseason projection and reports from subsistence fishermen, two 10-hour concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods with dip net and beach seine gear were opened in District 1 on June 11 and 12. Both of these gear types required the quick release of incidentally caught Chinook salmon. Summer chum salmon catch rates in these two periods were relatively low, however, it is still early in the summer chum salmon run. On average, the first quarter point of the summer chum salmon run passes the Lower Yukon Test Fishery approximately June 18–June 19 and the Pilot Station sonar project on June 21.

Assessment information from the cooperative Lower Yukon Test Fishery program continues to show that summer chum salmon are moving into the lower river. Therefore, commercial dip net and beach seine fishing opportunity is being provided in District 1 and District 2 to target potential groups of summer chum salmon.

Subsistence salmon fishing with dip nets and beach seines only in Districts 1 and 2 will occur concurrently with the commercial fishing periods. Fishermen are required to release Chinook salmon alive from dip net and beach seine gear. 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.

Subsistence and Commercial Fishing Schedule:

District 1 (including the Black River) Subsistence:

Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon is currently open from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. midnight Saturday, June 13, with dip net and beach seine gear only. All Chinook salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be released alive immediately.

Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday, June 14, subsistence salmon fishing will reopen on the following schedule with dip net and beach seine gear:

- Sunday, June 14, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight
- Monday, June 15, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight
- Tuesday, June 16, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight

All Chinook salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be released alive immediately.

District 1 (including the Black River) Commercial:

Commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 1 will open for three commercial fishing periods beginning 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday, June 14, with beach seine and dip net gear only. Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. District 1 will be on the following commercial fishing schedule:

- Sunday, June 14, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight
- Monday, June 15, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight
- Tuesday, June 16, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight

These will be 12-hour commercial fishing periods that are open concurrent with subsistence fishing times. All Chinook salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be released alive immediately. Chinook salmon released alive from dip net and beach seine gear must be recorded on a fish ticket.

District 2 Subsistence:

Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip net gear only. All Chinook salmon caught in dip net gear must be released alive immediately.

Effective 10:00 a.m. Monday, June 15, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in District 2 will close.

Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Monday, June 15, subsistence salmon fishing will reopen on the following schedule with dip net and beach seine gear only:

- Monday, June 15, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 16, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 17, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.

All Chinook salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be released alive immediately.

District 2 Commercial:

Commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 2 will open for three commercial fishing periods beginning 12:00 p.m. noon Monday, June 15, with beach seine and dip net gear only. Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. District 2 will be on the following commercial fishing schedule:

- Monday, June 15, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 16, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 17, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.

These will be 10-hour commercial fishing periods that are open concurrent with subsistence fishing times. All Chinook salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be released alive immediately. Chinook salmon released alive from dip net and beach seine gear must be recorded on a fish ticket.

Summer chum salmon catches and incidental catches and releases of Chinook salmon from these six commercial periods in Districts 1 and 2 will be evaluated to determine additional commercial openings. An announcement will be made on Tuesday, June 16 regarding further subsistence and commercial salmon fishing openings with gear types that allow the release of Chinook salmon.

The requirement to release Chinook salmon from dip net and beach seine gear will be strictly enforced. Fishermen are reminded that great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

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.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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