

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



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#### **2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #28**

#### **Summer Announcement #22, Yukon River 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.

Subsistence and commercial dip net and beach seine fishing opportunity is being provided in District 2 to target summer chum salmon. Commercial and subsistence fishermen may use dip nets or beach seine gear to target summer chum salmon. Any Chinook salmon caught in these gear types must be released to the water quickly and unharmed. Additional subsistence only periods are being offered in the mornings to allow subsistence fishermen to target summer chum salmon with dip net and beach seine gear only.

Although commercial and subsistence fishing periods are being provided, fishermen are cautioned that summer chum salmon catches may be low. Commercial fishermen from District 1 harvested a total of 1,097 summer chum salmon from two fishing periods on June 21 and June 22.

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery project indicated a large group of summer chum salmon were moving through the lower river on the morning of June 23. Subsistence fishermen in District 2 should anticipate an announcement by Friday, June 26 regarding a short subsistence only fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets once this large group of summer chum salmon move into the district.

**Subsistence and Commercial Fishing Schedule:****District 2 Subsistence Only Schedule:**

Effective 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 24, subsistence only salmon fishing will reopen on the following schedule with dip net and beach seine gear:

- Wednesday, June 24, from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 25, from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, June 26, from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

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

**District 2 Subsistence and Commercial Concurrent Schedule:**

Concurrent subsistence and commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 2 is currently open on the following schedule with beach seine and dip net gear only:

- Tuesday, June 23, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.

Subsistence and commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 2 will open concurrently for an additional three subsistence and commercial fishing periods beginning 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesday, June 24, 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:

- Wednesday, June 24, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 25, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 10:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 26, 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. Chinook salmon released alive from dip net and beach seine gear must be recorded on a fish ticket.

An announcement will be made by Friday, June 26 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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