

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Stephanie Schmidt, Area Management Biologist  
Sabrina Garcia, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Lower Yukon Area Office  
P.O. Box 127  
Emmonak, AK 99581  
Phone: (907) 949-1320  
Fax: (907) 949-1830

U.S. Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Geoffrey L. Haskett, Regional Director  
Gene Peltola, Asst. Regional Director Subsistence  
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager  
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rm 110  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997  
Fax (907) 455-1853

Date Issued: June 25, 2015

#### **2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 30**

#### **Summer Announcement # 24, Yukon River District 3 Subsistence Fishing**

#### **Schedule**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The 2015 summer chum salmon run is projected to be approximately 1.3 to 1.5 million fish. Although the run is currently tracking below the preseason outlook, it is still average in size and continuing to build in the lower river.

As of June 24 three pulses of summer chum salmon have passed the sonar project near Pilot Station. To date, the cumulative summer chum passage past the sonar project is 442,486 fish. The third pulse of summer chum salmon, estimated to have 129,611 fish, passed the sonar project from June 20 to June 22. This pulse of summer chum salmon is expected to be passing through Russian Mission from June 24–26 and Holy Cross from June 26–29.

In an effort to provide some subsistence summer chum salmon harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, a short three hour gillnet subsistence only fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled for District 3 on Friday, June 26 to target summer chum salmon. Fishermen are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon may be encountered. However, Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear during this opening may be retained for subsistence use.

**District 3 Subsistence 6-inch Gillnet Period:**

Subsistence salmon fishing for summer chum salmon is currently open in District 3 for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with dip net gear only.

Additionally, subsistence salmon fishing will be open in District 3 for one 3-hour period from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Friday, June 26, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon. Dip nets may still be used during this 3-hour period but all Chinook salmon caught in dip nets must be released alive. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in the 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fishermen are reminded that all Chinook salmon caught and retained for subsistence during this opening must be marked by removing both tips of the tail fin. The tips must be removed before concealing the Chinook salmon from plain view or before transferring the salmon from the fishing site.

At 11:00 p.m. Friday, June 26, subsistence fishing will continue on the previous schedule of 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip net gear only. All Chinook salmon caught in dip nets 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.

-end-