

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #31

Summer Announcement #25, Yukon River District 2 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. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery project and reports from subsistence fishermen indicate that the summer chum salmon run is continuing to build up in the lower river.

Subsistence only fishing is currently being provided in the mornings to allow subsistence fishermen a less competitive opportunity to target summer chum salmon with dip net and beach seine gear only. In the afternoon, subsistence fishing occurs concurrently with commercial fishing opportunity. Both subsistence and commercial fishermen are required to release Chinook salmon from dip net and beach seine gear quickly and unharmed.

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery project detected a large group of summer chum salmon the morning of June 23 and expects these fish to move into District 2 on June 27. Therefore, a short gillnet subsistence only fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh is being provided in District 2 on Sunday, June 28, to target this large group of summer chum salmon. Fishermen are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon may be encountered. However, any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use.

Subsistence and Commercial Fishing Schedule:

District 2 Subsistence Dip Net and Beach Seine Schedule:

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing is open on the following schedule with dip nets and beach seines only:

- Thursday, June 25, from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 26, from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Effective 6:00 a.m. Saturday, June 27, subsistence salmon fishing will reopen on the following schedule with dip nets and beach seines only:

- Saturday, June 27, from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 29, from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

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

District 2 Subsistence 6-inch Gillnet Period:

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open in District 2 for one 3-hour period from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Sunday, June 28, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in 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 from gillnet gear 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.

Dip nets may still be used during this 3-hour period but all Chinook salmon caught in dip nets must be released alive.

An announcement will be made by Monday, June 29 regarding further subsistence 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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