

# **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 26, 2015

#### **2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 34**

#### **Summer Announcement # 28, Yukon River Subdistrict 4-A 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 25, the cumulative summer chum passage past the sonar project is 516,486 fish. A group of summer chum salmon, estimated to have 129,611 fish, passed the sonar project from June 20 to June 22. This group of summer chum salmon is expected to be passing near Anvik from June 28–July 1 and Kaltag from July 3–July 6.

In an effort to provide some subsistence summer chum salmon harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, a short four hour gillnet subsistence only fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A on Sunday, June 28, and in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A on Friday, July 3 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 and fish wheels during this opening may be retained for subsistence use.

**Subdistrict 4-A Subsistence 6-inch Gillnet Period:**

Subsistence salmon fishing for summer chum salmon is currently open in Subdistrict 4-A for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with dip net and live-release fish wheels only.

Additionally, subsistence salmon fishing will be open in Subdistrict 4-A for one 4-hour period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels to target summer chum salmon. The schedule is as follows:

- Lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A, Sunday, June 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A, Friday, July 3, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Dip nets may still be used during this 4-hour period but all Chinook salmon caught in this gear type must be released alive as well as with beach seine gear in the Anvik River Special Management Area. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in the 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence purposes.

After the close of this four hour subsistence fishing opening, subsistence fishing will return to the previous schedule of 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip net and live-release fish wheels only at 10:00 p.m. Sunday, June 28, in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A and at 10:00 p.m. Friday, July 3 in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A. All Chinook salmon caught in dip nets and fish wheels 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-