

**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  
PO 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

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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 35  
Summer Announcement # 29, Yukon River Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing  
Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

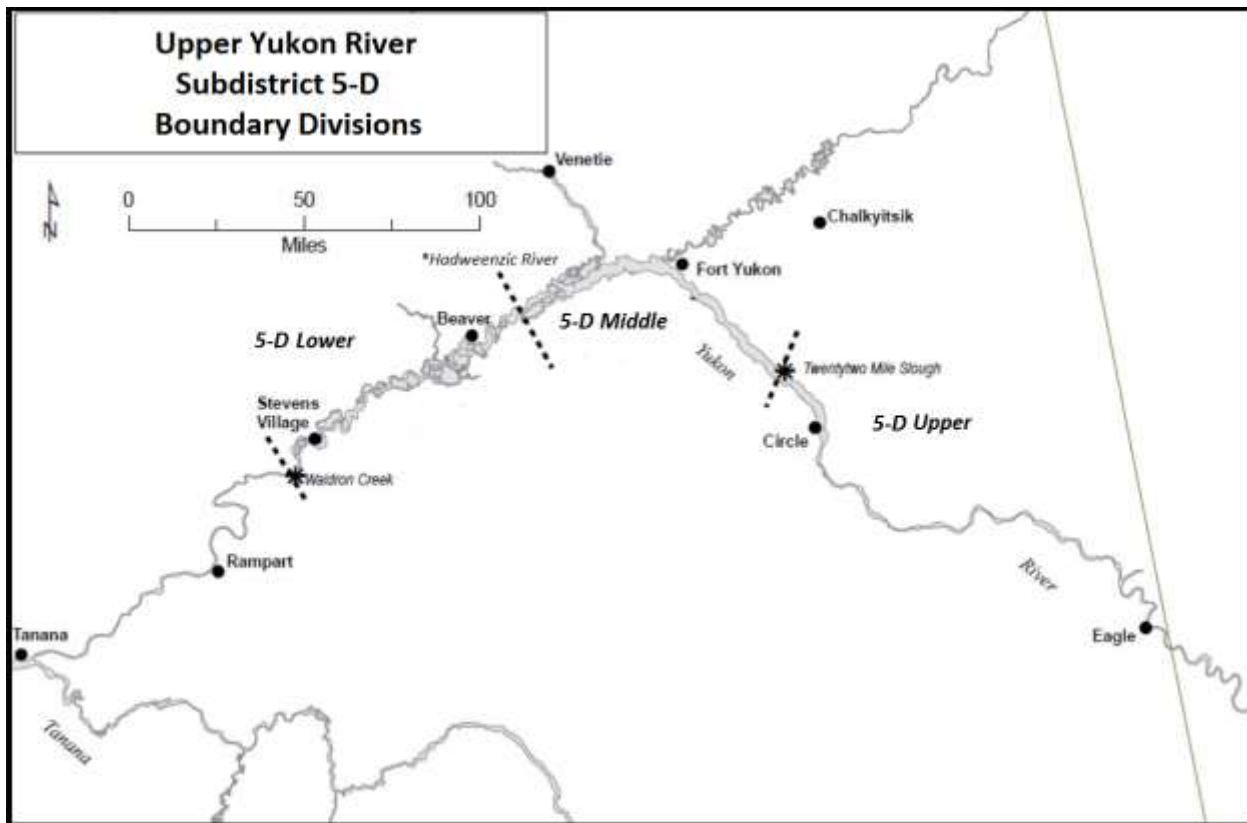
A conservative management approach has been taken early in the summer fishing season given the low return of Chinook salmon expected in 2015. Subsistence salmon fishing closures have been initiated in lower river districts and tributaries. Districts 1–4 have recently re-opened to subsistence salmon fishing with dip nets and live-release fish wheels only to target summer chum salmon. Subsistence fishermen using dip nets and fish wheels are required to release all Chinook salmon to the water alive.

Based on historical migration timing, the first pulse of Chinook salmon are expected to be near Stevens Village on July 1, near Fort Yukon on July 5, and near Circle on July 7. Consistent with management restrictions taken in the lower river, this announcement closes subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 5-D to conserve Chinook salmon.

The 2015 season is undoubtedly another challenging year for Yukon River fishermen. ADF&G and USFWS would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the fishermen of the Yukon River for their subsistence fishing reports and their continuing efforts to share in Chinook salmon conservation when these run sizes are well-below average.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 5-D and the long time it takes salmon to migrate all the way through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when implementing

management actions to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 5-D will be divided into three areas (Map 1):



### Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

**Subdistrict 5-D Lower** (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Lower is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 6 inches or less. Fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation, or be equipped with a live box that is checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released to the water alive.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 29, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Lower will be closed until further notice. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species. If a salmon is caught in this gear type, it is legal to retain it.

**Subdistrict 5-D Middle** (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including the Porcupine River and all other adjacent tributaries):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Middle is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 6 inches or less. Fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation, or be equipped with a live box that is checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released to the water alive.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 3, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Middle will be closed until further notice. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species. If a salmon is caught in this gear type, it is legal to retain it.

**Subdistrict 5-D Upper** (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Upper is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 6 inches or less. Fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation, or be equipped with a live box that is checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released to the water alive.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Sunday, July 5, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Upper will be closed until further notice. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species. If a salmon is caught in this gear type, it is legal to retain it.

The opportunity to harvest non-salmon species using 4-inch gillnet may be reduced or discontinued if it is found that this gear is being used to target Chinook salmon. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

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.

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