



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COPPER RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET SALMON FISHING SCHEDULE
WEEK OF JULY 6 – JULY 12**

The Chitina Subdistrict will open for a 168-hour period from 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 6 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 12.

As a reminder, the Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan and the Statewide Personal Use Fishing Regulations state that:

- The annual limit is 25 salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder (**Please note, the annual limit for 2015 is different than 2014, based on Board of Fisheries action in December 2014. In addition, there will no longer be supplemental periods as they were removed from regulation**)
- Of the total limit only **one king salmon can be kept per household.**
- Personal use fishers must possess **both** their Chitina Personal Use fishery permit and a valid resident sport fishing license when fishing. **Steelhead cannot be kept.** and must be returned to the water unharmed.
- Harvest must be recorded on the permit **immediately.**
- The tips of the tail of personal use caught fish must be clipped **immediately** upon landing a fish.
- **Immediately** is defined as before concealing the salmon from plain view or transporting the salmon from the fishing site. **Fishing site** means the location where the fish was removed from the water and became part of the permit holder's bag limit.

The Copper River personal use fishery is managed under direction outlined in the Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 77.591). The plan establishes the season from June 7 through September 30, and directs the department to establish weekly periods based on Miles Lake sonar counts. During June 15 – 28, there were 105,601 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 56,097 salmon, which results in a surplus of 49,504 salmon. Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous five-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to justify an increase of 36 hours above the preseason schedule to 168 hours of fishing time during the week of July 6 – July 12.

All residents of Alaska qualify to participate in this personal use fishery. A Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishing permit and a resident sport fishing license are required. There is no fee for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishing permit. Permits are now available online at the Alaska Fish and Game Online Store <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/> and online harvest reporting is available at www.fish.alaska.gov/PU.

The Department urges dipnetters to respect the rights of private landowners in the area and know the regulations before fishing. For information on access across private lands contact Chitina Native Corporation at (907) 823-2223.

Information regarding the fishery can be found at the ADF&G web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreaInteriorChitina.main>. This site provides information regarding the Upper Copper River fisheries including: fishery descriptions and summaries, maps of the subdistricts, a listing of vendors that carry the permits, and links to the sonar numbers and fishing schedule emergency orders.

The current fishing schedule will be announced on the Chitina Fishery information line at 822-5224 (Glennallen), 459-7382 (Fairbanks), and 267-2511 (Anchorage). Please contact an information phone line prior to planning your trip to Chitina to ensure that the fishery will be open when you arrive. If you have any questions regarding the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery, please contact the ADF&G office in Glennallen at (907) 822-3309.

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