

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 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

Date Issued: July 1, 2015

2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #40

Summer Announcement # 33, Innoko and Koyukuk River Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

A conservative management approach is being taken throughout the drainage to protect the 2015 weak Chinook salmon run. The cumulative Chinook salmon passage at the sonar project near Pilot Station is estimated to be approximately 96,000 fish as of June 30. A run size of this magnitude is well below average but may have the potential to meet escapement goals and objectives as a result of conservation efforts taken by Yukon River fishermen.

The summer chum salmon run is projected to be approximately 1.3 to 1.5 million fish. The summer chum salmon passage estimate at the sonar project near Pilot station through June 30 is approximately 989,000 fish. A run size of this magnitude is near average and harvest so far has been restricted in an effort to avoid incidental catches of Chinook salmon.

The subsistence fishing closures in the Innoko and Koyukuk rivers are being discontinued at this time as summer chum salmon are expected to become abundant in the area. Gillnet mesh size is being restricted to 6-inches or smaller mesh size in order to minimize the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. A cautious management approach will continue to be applied in order to protect the weak Chinook salmon run while providing opportunity to harvest the abundant summer chum salmon run.

Current Management

The current subsistence fishing schedule is as follows:

Innoko River:

Subsistence fishing is currently closed in the Innoko River to protect Chinook salmon. Effective at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 4, subsistence salmon fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 6 inches or less to target summer chum salmon. This gear restriction is expected to be in place for the remainder of the Chinook salmon run in the Innoko River.

Koyukuk River:

Subsistence fishing is currently closed in the Koyukuk River to protect Chinook salmon.

Effective at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 4, subsistence salmon fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 6 inches or less to target summer chum salmon. This gear restriction is expected to be in place for the remainder of the Chinook salmon run in the Koyukuk River.

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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