

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 44
Summer Announcement # 37, Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C Subsistence
Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper 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 July 1, the cumulative summer chum passage past the sonar project is approximately 1 million fish. Based on the daily passage estimates and historical upriver migration timing, summer chum salmon numbers should start increasing in the Galena and Ruby areas on July 6.

The Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run is currently projected to be weaker than 2014. In an effort to provide subsistence summer chum salmon harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, an eight hour gillnet subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled for Subdistrict 4-C on Monday, July 6, to target summer chum salmon. The requirement to man fish wheels or to have fish wheels equipped with live boxes is lifted during this subsistence period. This subsistence gillnet opportunity is restricted to Subdistrict 4-C only, from the tip of Cone Point upstream along the south bank of the river to a point opposite the westernmost edge of Illinois Creek, in an effort to protect Canadian-origin Chinook salmon which bank orient and migrate along the north bank of the river in this section.

During this subsistence gillnet fishing opportunity 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-B Subsistence Schedule:

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-B is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip nets and live-release fish wheels. Subsistence dip net fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive. Fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation, or be equipped with a live box that must be checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released alive from fish wheels. The requirement to release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types will be strictly enforced.

Subdistrict 4-C Subsistence 6-inch Gillnet Period:

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

Effective at 11:00 a.m. Monday, July 6, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-C will close.

Effective at 12:00 p.m. noon Monday, July 6, subsistence salmon fishing will reopen in Subdistrict 4-C for one 8-hour period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels to target summer chum salmon. The period is as follows:

- Monday, July 6, from 12:00 p.m. noon until to 8:00 p.m.

Dip nets may not be used during this 8-hour period. 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 eight 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 9:00 p.m. Monday, July 6, in Subdistrict 4-C. 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.

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