

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #49
Summer Announcement #42, Yukon River District 1 Commercial 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. The cumulative passage at the sonar project near Pilot Station as of July 4 was approximately 1,171,000 summer chum salmon. While the Chinook salmon run continues to be weak, the majority of the run has migrated out of District 1.

A six hour commercial gillnet fishing period is being provided in District 1 to target summer chum salmon with gillnets restricted to 5.5-inch or smaller mesh size and not exceeding 30 meshes in depth. This restricted gillnet gear option was adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2013 and is intended to allow for summer chum salmon commercial opportunity that is more efficient than dip nets and beach seines, while also reducing the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Fishermen are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon are likely to be encountered.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that they may keep summer chum salmon and Chinook salmon caught during the commercial gillnet opening for subsistence use. All Chinook salmon and summer chum salmon retained for subsistence use during the commercial gillnet opening must be recorded on a fish ticket as kept but not sold.

Fishermen in District 1 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the salmon fishing schedule for Monday, July 6.

District 1 Commercial Fishing Schedule:

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 5, commercial salmon fishing will open on the following schedule with 5.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 30 meshes deep:

- Sunday, July 5, from 6:00 p.m. until 11:59 p.m.

No dip net or beach seine gear commercial or subsistence opportunity will be provided on Sunday, July 5.

The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited. Therefore, commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. Chinook salmon retained from commercial gillnet gear must be recorded on a fish ticket as retained but not sold.

Fishermen are reminded that all Chinook salmon caught and retained for subsistence during the commercial gillnet opening must be marked by removing both tips of the tail fin. The tips must be removed before concealing the Chinook salmon from plain view or before transferring the salmon from the fishing site.

Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length to target non-salmon species during subsistence closures.

An announcement will be made on Monday, July 6, regarding further subsistence and commercial salmon fishing openings to target summer chum salmon.

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.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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