

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 56
Summer Announcement # 48, Yukon River Subdistrict 4-A Subsistence Fishing
Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2015 summer chum salmon run is projected to be approximately 1.4 to 1.6 million fish. Although the run is currently tracking below the preseason outlook, it is still average in size.

As of July 7, the cumulative summer chum passage past the sonar project is approximately 1,254,000 fish. A large group of summer chum salmon, estimated to have approximately 362,000 fish, passed the sonar project from June 27–June 29. This group of summer chum salmon is expected to be in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A starting July 10.

In an effort to provide subsistence summer chum salmon harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, a short four hour gillnet subsistence only fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A on Sunday, July 12, to target summer chum salmon. Additionally, the requirement to man fish wheels or to use fish wheels equipped with a live box is lifted during this short four hour opening.

The 2015 Chinook salmon run is projected to be weaker than anticipated. The management approach to date has been to balance protection of a poor Chinook salmon run with subsistence opportunity to target the more abundant summer chum salmon. The intent of this short gillnet opportunity is to harvest summer chum salmon for subsistence purposes. In order to ensure escapement objectives and goals will be met in 2015, fishermen are strongly discouraged from targeting Chinook salmon and should 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-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point which includes the communities of Kaltag, Nulato and Koyukuk) Subsistence 6-inch Gillnet Period:

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

Effective at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12, subsistence salmon fishing in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A will close.

Effective at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12, subsistence salmon fishing will reopen in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A for one 4-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:

- Upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A, Sunday, July 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Dip nets may not be used during this 4-hour period. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence purposes.

After the close of this 4-hour subsistence fishing period, subsistence salmon 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 beginning 11:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12, in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A. 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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