

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 59**

#### **Summer Announcement # 51, Yukon River Subdistrict 5-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.

In an effort to provide subsistence summer chum salmon harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, a gillnet subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled in Subdistrict 5-A, on Friday, July 10. Fishermen may also use fish wheels which are not required to be manned or have a live box during this opening.

The 2015 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run is projected to be weaker than anticipated, while the Tanana River stocks of Chinook salmon are stronger than expected. The current projected run size of Tanana River stocks is large enough to meet escapement objectives and support a small, incidental harvest. This subsistence gillnet opportunity is restricted to Subdistrict 5-A only in an effort to protect Canadian-origin Chinook salmon which bank orient and migrate along the north bank of the mainstem Yukon River in this area. Both the slightly stronger Tanana River Chinook salmon stocks and abundant summer chum salmon stocks are typically encountered along the south bank throughout Subdistrict 5-A, and therefore, these stocks would be accessible during this fishing opportunity. Gillnets are being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to more efficiently harvest summer chum salmon and any incidental Chinook salmon caught in this area are likely to be Tanana River stocks.

**Subdistrict 5-A Subsistence 6-inch Gillnet Period:**

(Subdistrict 5-A begins at a point opposite the westernmost edge of Illinois Creek upstream along the south bank of the river to the easternmost edge of the Tanana River mouth and includes the following islands: Second, Corbusier, Sixmile, Deet'laa', Swanson, Blind, Basco, Sword, Leonard, Still, Tanana, and Mission):

Subsistence salmon fishing for salmon is currently closed in Subdistrict 5-A to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective at 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 10, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 48-hour period in Subdistrict 5-A with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels to target summer chum salmon. The period is as follows:

- 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 10, until 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12

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 subsistence fishing period, subsistence salmon fishing will close beginning 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12, in Subdistrict 5-A.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species. If a salmon is caught in this gear type, it is legal to retain it. However, this opportunity to harvest non-salmon species may be reduced or discontinued if it is found that this gear is being used to target Chinook salmon. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

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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