

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 64

Summer Announcement # 56, Yukon River Subdistrict 6-C Commercial Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2015 summer chum salmon total run is projected to be approximately 1.6 to 1.8 million fish. The cumulative passage at the sonar project near Pilot Station as of July 11 was approximately 1,318,000 summer chum salmon. Based on the assessed abundance of summer chum salmon, commercial fishing opportunity is being allowed to target summer chum salmon in Subdistrict 6-C beginning Monday, July 13. This summer chum salmon directed commercial fishing opportunity is being aligned with the commercial fishing periods announced for Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B.

Regulations allow the department to open summer chum salmon directed commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 6-C during times of Chinook salmon conservation with fish wheels only. Commercial fish wheels must be specially constructed, manned at all times during operations, and all Chinook salmon caught in the fish wheels must immediately be released to the water alive.

Subdistrict 6-C: Commercial fishing will be open for two 42-hour fishing periods:

Period #1: 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 13, until 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 15
Period #2: 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 17, until 12:00 noon Sunday, July 19

The department is reminding fishermen in Subdistrict 6-C that commercial fish wheels must be constructed in a manner that includes:

- a) basket sides and bottoms consisting of soft mesh material similar to or made of seine web; and
- b) an adjustable or fixed slide or chute that consists of a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined side and returns Chinook salmon immediately to the water.

These construction specifications for commercial fish wheels are intended to reduce the potential for injuring Chinook salmon while being released. Additionally, in 2014 the Board of Fisheries adopted a new regulation that authorizes the use of leads with commercial fish wheels, thereby aligning regulations with a long standing practice.

Commercial fishermen should coordinate with the buyer on a daily basis regarding scheduling deliveries. All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. All Chinook salmon released must also be recorded on the fish ticket. Other fish species caught but not sold must also be recorded on the fish ticket. These commercial fishing periods do not affect current Personal Use management actions and fishing schedules.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** or in Fairbanks call **459-7387**. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at 459-7274.

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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