

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 66

Summer Announcement # 58, Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C Subsistence

Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2015 summer chum salmon total run is now projected to be approximately 1.8 million fish. The cumulative passage at the sonar project near Pilot Station as of July 12 was approximately 1,331,000 summer chum salmon. As of July 9 the East Fork Andreafsky River Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for summer chum salmon was met.

A large group of summer chum salmon, containing approximately 362,000 fish, passed the sonar project near Pilot Station from June 27–June 29. Based on historical upriver migration timing, this group of summer chum salmon should be in Ruby starting July 15.

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, a 24-hour gillnet subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled for Subdistrict 4-C starting Wednesday, July 15, 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, 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:

Subdistrict 4-C is defined as the tip of Cone Point upstream along the south bank of the river to a point opposite the westernmost edge of Illinois Creek.

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 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-C will close.

Effective at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, subsistence salmon fishing will reopen in Subdistrict 4-C for one 24-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:

- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16

Dip nets may not be used during this 24-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 24-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 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 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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