

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #67

Summer Announcement #59, Yukon River Subdistrict 4-A 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.

The Chinook salmon total run size is currently tracking below the historical average, but should come in above the lower end of the preseason outlook range of 118,000 to 140,000. The cumulative passage at the sonar project near Pilot Station as of July 12 was approximately 114,000 Chinook salmon. At this time, the Chinook salmon run is approximately 96% complete at the sonar project and all four pulses of Chinook salmon have migrated through Subdistrict 4-A. Additionally, as of July 9 the Andreafsky River SEG for Chinook salmon was met.

Given that the Chinook salmon run is nearly over in the lower river, a subsistence fishing schedule is being established for the remainder of the summer season in Subdistrict 4-A. Beginning Wednesday, July 15, in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A and Sunday, July 19, in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A, subsistence salmon fishing will be open on their regulatory schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels for the remainder of the summer season. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

Subdistrict 4-A Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes the main stem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling):

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip net gear and live-release fish wheels only. Any Chinook salmon caught in dip net gear and fish wheels must be released to the water alive.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 48-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels for the remainder of the summer season. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

The dip net fishing season is being discontinued effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15.

Upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes the main stem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip net gear and live-release fish wheels only. Any Chinook salmon caught in dip net gear and fish wheels must be released to the water alive.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 19, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 48-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels for the remainder of the summer season. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

A new regulation passed at the Board of Fisheries meeting in March 2015 allows the use of drift gillnets to harvest summer chum salmon for subsistence purposes from June 10 through August 2 in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A.

The dip net fishing season is being discontinued effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 19.

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

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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