

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #72

Summer Announcement #63, Yukon River Subdistrict 6-C Personal Use Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Chinook salmon run is currently tracking at the lower end of the preseason projection of 118,000–140,000 fish. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon past the sonar project near Pilot Station is approximately 115,000 Chinook salmon as of July 15, which is below average for this date.

The 2015 summer chum salmon total run is projected to be approximately 1.8 million fish. The cumulative passage of summer chum salmon past the sonar project near Pilot Station was approximately 1,371,000 summer chum salmon as of July 15. Based on the assessed abundance of summer chum salmon, personal use fishing opportunity is being allowed to target summer chum salmon in Subdistrict 6-C beginning Friday, July 17. In an effort to conserve a weak Chinook salmon run, personal use fishing will be restricted to live-release fish wheels only. Fishermen will be required to release all Chinook salmon alive.

Personal Use Schedule:

Subdistricts 6-C (from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Personal use fishing is currently closed to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 17, personal use salmon fishing will be open on its regulatory schedule consisting of two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays and from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays.

Fishermen using fish wheels are reminded that a fish wheel must be equipped with a live box that must be checked at least once every six hours and all Chinook salmon must be returned to the water unharmed. A fish wheel may be operated without a live box if the fish wheel has a chute that returns all fish captured back to the water unharmed, the person closely attends the fish wheel while it is in operation, and all Chinook salmon caught are returned to the water alive.

A personal use permit is required to harvest salmon in Subdistrict 6-C. A permit can be obtained from the Fairbanks Fish and Game office. Personal use fishermen should keep track of daily harvest information and record that information on the reverse side of their personal use permit on the day fishing occurred. Permittees are required to report their harvest to the department by 4:30 p.m. Thursday each week. Fishermen should report their name, permit number, and daily catch by species. Fishermen are also reminded that any salmon taken under the authority of a personal use permit must have both tips of the tail fin removed before the salmon is concealed or transferred from the fishing site.

If fishermen are planning to personal use fish for whitefish and sucker in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, you will need to contact the Fairbanks Fish and Game office to obtain a Personal Use Whitefish and Sucker permit.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** or in Fairbanks call **(907) 459-7387**. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320.

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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