

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 73

Summer Announcement # 64, Yukon River District 6 Subsistence 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. However, the Tanana River stocks of Chinook salmon are stronger than expected. The Chena and Salcha River towers have been operational since June 30 and July 12, respectively. Counts at both tower projects are encouraging and run projections show that escapement goals at both projects are likely to be met.

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. The third pulse of summer chum salmon is expected to be in Manley today.

Based on the assessed abundance of summer chum salmon, and increasing confidence in meeting Chinook salmon escapement goals, subsistence fishing restrictions on manned fish wheels are being relaxed in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B. Effective Friday, July 17, the requirements to man fish wheels at all times of operation and to release Chinook salmon alive are being discontinued.

District 6 Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the regulatory marker at the mouth of Wood River, which includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B currently consists of two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays, and fisherman may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 17, fishermen are no longer required to attend their fish wheel while it is in operation or release Chinook salmon alive during subsistence salmon fishing. Chinook salmon caught in 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use. Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B will remain on their regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule. The Kantishna River will remain on its regulatory schedule of 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

Old Minto Area:

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 17, fishermen are no longer required to attend their fish wheel while it is in operation or release Chinook salmon alive during subsistence salmon fishing. Chinook salmon caught in 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use. The Old Minto Area will remain on its regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage. Permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks. Subsistence fishermen fishing in the upper portion of Subdistrict 6-B from three miles upstream of the mouth of Totchaket Slough to Wood River are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, please provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

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**.

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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