

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Stephanie Schmidt, Area Management Biologist
Sabrina Garcia, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Anchorage Regional Office
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518
Phone: (907) 267-2217
Fax: (907) 267-2442

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Geoffrey L. Haskett, Regional Director
Gene Peltola, Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

Date Issued: July 17, 2015

**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 75
Summer Announcement # 66, Yukon River Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing
Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2015 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run was initially projected to be weaker than anticipated. However, Chinook salmon passage estimates at the Eagle sonar project are promising. Through July 16, approximately 22,500 Chinook salmon have been counted at the sonar project, which is above the historical average of 8,100 for this early date. In an effort to provide a small subsistence harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, a gillnet subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled in the lower and middle portions of Subdistrict 5-D starting Sunday, July 19. Fishermen may also use fish wheels which are not required to be manned or have a live box during this opening.

Gillnets are being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to reduce the harvest of large, female Chinook salmon headed to spawning areas in Canada. Fishermen are encouraged to contact the department and report their subsistence harvest during this opening. These harvest reports help provide information on run timing and run strength and can help direct future management actions in the upper river.

The upper portion of Subdistrict 5-D should standby for an announcement regarding a subsistence salmon fishing opportunity.

Subdistrict 5-D Lower and Middle (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to 22 Mile Slough including the Porcupine River and all adjacent

tributaries):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed in Subdistrict 5-D Lower and Middle to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective at 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday, July 19, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 24-hour period in Subdistricts 5-D Lower and 5-D Middle with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels. The period is as follows:

- 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday, July 19, until 12:00 p.m. noon Monday, July 20

Chinook salmon caught in the 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence purposes.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed in Subdistrict 5-D Upper to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species. If a salmon is caught in this gear type, it is legal to retain it. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered during subsistence salmon 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 Anchorage at 267-2217 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.

-end-