

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 79**

#### **Summer Announcement # 69, 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 have been promising. Through July 20, approximately 35,800 Chinook salmon have been counted at the sonar project, which is above the historical average of 17,200 for this date. In an effort to provide a small subsistence harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, gillnet subsistence fishing periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh size are scheduled in portions of Subdistrict 5-D. 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.

**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 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 23, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 36-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:

- 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 23, until 8:00 a.m. Saturday, July 25

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.

Effective at 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 24, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 36-hour period in Subdistrict 5-D Upper with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels. The period is as follows:

- 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 24, until 8:00 a.m. Sunday, July 26

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

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.

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