

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 80
Summer Announcement # 70, Yukon River District 6 Commercial Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2015 summer chum salmon total run is projected to be approximately 1.8 million fish. The total estimated passage of summer chum salmon past the sonar project near Pilot Station was approximately 1,384,000 summer chum salmon as of July 18. The fourth pulse of summer chum salmon is expected to be in Manley starting July 23.

The Chinook salmon run is currently tracking at the lower end of the preseason projection of 118,000–140,000 fish. The total estimated passage of Chinook salmon past the sonar project near Pilot Station is approximately 115,500 Chinook salmon as of July 18, which is below average. However, the Tanana River stocks of Chinook salmon are stronger than expected. Escapement goals for Chinook salmon were met at the Chena and Salcha river counting towers on July 16 and July 19, respectively.

Based on the abundance of summer chum salmon, additional commercial fishing periods are being allowed to target summer chum salmon in Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C beginning Monday, July 27. Given that escapement goals have been met in the Chena and Salcha rivers, the requirements to man commercial fish wheels at all times of operation and release Chinook salmon alive are being discontinued effective Friday, July 24, at the start of Period 4 and will remain effective for the remainder of the commercial fishing season. Additionally, fishermen may use six-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels and gillnets may be retained for subsistence use.

Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C: Commercial fishing will be open for an additional two 42-hour fishing periods:

Period #5: 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 27, until 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 29
Period #6: 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 31, until 12:00 noon Sunday, August 2

Additionally, effective with commercial fishing period #4 which starts on Friday, July 24, commercial fishermen may use six-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and may also retain Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels for subsistence purposes.

Commercial fishermen should contact and coordinate with the buyer on a daily basis regarding scheduling deliveries. All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. All Chinook salmon kept for subsistence purposes must be recorded on the fish ticket. Other fish species caught but not sold must also be recorded on the fish ticket. These commercial fishing periods do not affect current Personal Use management actions and fishing schedules.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** or in Fairbanks call **459-7387**. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at 459-7274.

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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