

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: July 30, 2015

2015 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 11

Fall Announcement # 11, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2015 fall chum salmon preseason run projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, is for a run size between 700,000 and 800,000 fish.

The first pulse of fall chum salmon entered the Yukon River on July 17 and finished passing the mainstem sonar on July 22. The size of the first pulse was approximately 100,000 fish. The expected location of the first pulse as of July 30 is near the community of Kaltag, and should reach the communities of Galena around August 1 and Ruby around August 2. A second group of fall chum began entering the Yukon River on July 29 and should begin passing the mainstem sonar around August 1. As a result of the severe Chinook salmon restrictions put in place in the Yukon area this season, the department is increasing the opportunity to harvest fall chum salmon for subsistence use. Therefore, the current subsistence schedule in District 4 is being relaxed.

Beginning Friday, July 31, subsistence fishing in the entire District 4 will be open seven days per week, 24 hours per day, with 7.5-inch gillnets or less and fish wheels. Drift gillnet fishing will continue to be allowed only in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek.

Subdistrict 4-A: Subdistrict 4-A begins three quarters of a mile below Old Paradise Village at the mouth of an unnamed slough and runs upstream to the tip of Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River villages of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk.

Subdistrict 4-A is currently on a 5-day per week subsistence salmon fishing schedule with fishing open from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays through 6:00 p.m. Sundays. Subsistence fishermen are allowed to use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less. Drift gillnet fishing is only allowed in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 31, subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 4-A will be open seven days per week, 24 hours per day, with 7.5-inch gillnets or less and fish wheels. Drift gillnet fishing will continue to be allowed only in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C: Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C include that section of river from the tip of Cone Point upstream to the westernmost edge of Illinois Creek of the Yukon River and includes the mainstem Yukon River villages of Galena and Ruby.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C is currently open five days a week, from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 31, subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C will be open seven days per week, 24 hours per day, with 7.5-inch gillnets or less and fish wheels. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 455-1845.

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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