

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 88

Summer Announcement # 77, Yukon River District 6 Subsistence and 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 nearing the Salcha River on July 31.

The Chinook salmon run is estimated to be above 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 115,700 Chinook salmon, 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 rivers counting towers on July 16 and July 19, respectively.

Given that escapement goals have been met in the Chena and Salcha rivers, subsistence salmon fishing restrictions are being relaxed in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B. Effective Friday, July 31, subsistence salmon fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets or fish wheels.

Additionally, based on the number of summer chum salmon still present in District 6, two commercial fishing periods are being provided to target summer chum salmon beginning Monday, August 3. Commercial fishermen may use 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels. Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels and gillnets may be retained for subsistence use.

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 is open for two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays and from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays, with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 31, fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use. Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B will remain on their current 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 open 5 days per week, from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays, with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 31, fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use. The Old Minto Area will remain on its current subsistence salmon fishing schedule.

District 6 Commercial Fishing Schedule:

Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C: Commercial fishing will be open for an additional two 42-hour fishing periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels:

Period #7: 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 3, until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesday, August 5

Period #8: 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 7, until 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday, August 9

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 Subsistence or 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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