

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 14

Fall Announcement # 14, Yukon River District 2 Commercial Period 4

Districts Affected: Lower 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. This level of abundance should be sufficient to provide for escapement, an above average subsistence harvest, and a surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes.

The estimated passage of fall chum salmon having passed the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station through August 2 is 195,700 fish, which is above the historical median of 173,200 fish for that date. 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. Over the last week fall chum salmon entry into Yukon River has been steadily interspersed with smaller groups.

District 2 Commercial Schedule:

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in District 2 on Tuesday, August 4 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. This will be a 4-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh size.

The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited. Therefore, commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. Chinook salmon retained from commercial gillnet gear must be recorded on a fish ticket as retained but not sold.

Preliminary reports from the District 2 commercial opening on August 1 indicate a harvest of 6,916 fall chum and 316 coho salmon from 116 permit holders. The preliminary cumulative commercial fall chum harvest for District 2 is 17,295 fall chum salmon and 385 coho salmon.

District 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 is open during the fall season 7 days per week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches, except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. In District 2, subsistence salmon fishing will close at 2:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 4, and reopen at 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 5.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 and 459-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks 1-866-479-7387). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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