

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 18

Fall Announcement # 17, Yukon River Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C Commercial Period 1

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. 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 fall chum salmon passage at the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station through August 6 is 230,342 fish, which is slightly below the historical median of 242,500 fish for that date. The first pulse of fall chum salmon entered the Yukon River on July 17 and was approximately 100,000 fish. This first pulse should reach the community of Rampart around August 8. Since the first pulse, fall chum salmon entry into Yukon River has been relatively steady, with a second smaller group of approximately 40,000 fish that finished passing the mainstem sonar on August 1. Inseason assessment is currently in line with the estimated run size for fall chum salmon.

Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C Commercial Schedule:

In Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, commercial fishing will be open for one 5-day fishing period from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 11, until 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 16. Gillnets will be restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh size. **Commercial fishermen must confirm their market prior to commercial fishing.** Processors, catcher sellers, or direct marketers should notify the department of their intent to operate by contacting the Fairbanks office at 459-7274.

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.

This commercial period will be open concurrently with subsistence salmon fishing.

Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistricts 5-C from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River. Subsistence fishermen outside of the permit area are encouraged to fill out their subsistence salmon catch calendars. Calendars and subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

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 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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