

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
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Date Issued: 8/8/15  
Time: 11:30 a.m.

**2015 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 19  
Fall Announcement # 18, Yukon River District 2 Commercial Period 5**  
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 7 is 235,900 fish, which is slightly below the historical median of 253,400 fish for that date. The first pulse of fall chum salmon entered the Yukon River on July 17 and was approximately 100,000 fish. 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.

**District 2 Commercial Schedule:**

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in District 2 on Sunday, August 9 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This will be a 6-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 4 indicate a harvest of 7,181 fall chum and 855 coho salmon from 120 permit holders. The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest for District 2 is 24,476 fall chum and 1,232 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. Sunday, August 9, and reopen at 8:00 a.m. Monday, August 10.

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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