

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 24

Fall Announcement # 22, Yukon River District 1 Commercial Period 8

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 11 is 252,900 fish, which is slightly below the historical median of 305,900 fish for that date. The first pulse of fall chum salmon entered the Yukon River on July 17 and was approximately 100,000 fish. Fall chum salmon entry into Yukon River has been relatively steady, with a couple of smaller groups of approximately 40,000 and 31,000 fish passing the mainstem sonar. On August 10 another group of both fall chum and coho salmon began entering the river however it will be a few more days for it to pass the mainstem river sonar. Inseason assessment is currently in line with the preseason estimated run size for fall chum salmon.

District 1 Commercial Schedule:

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in the **Set Net Only Area** of District 1 on Thursday, August 13 from 12:00 p.m. noon until 9:00 p.m. This will be a 9-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh size.

The remainder of District 1 will be open to commercial fishing on Thursday, August 13 from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 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 1 commercial opening on August 10 indicate a harvest of 22,941 fall chum and 12,056 coho salmon from 202 permit holders. The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest for District 1 is 65,167 fall chum and 20,045 coho salmon.

District 1 Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 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 1, subsistence salmon fishing will close at 12:00 a.m. Thursday, August 13, and reopen at 9:00 a.m. Friday, August 14.

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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