

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 44

Fall Announcement # 39, Yukon River Districts 1 and 2 Commercial Period 14

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The 2015 fall chum salmon inseason run projection is on track 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. Inseason assessment is currently in line with the estimated run size for fall chum salmon, and the coho salmon run appears to be above average.

The coho salmon directed commercial fishing season ends by regulation after September 10. The department will continue to monitor coho salmon entry into the Yukon River through YDFDA's extended operation of the Lower Yukon Test Fishery. However, the department does not anticipate any further commercial periods for salmon for the remainder of the 2015 season after Friday, September 4.

District 1 Commercial Period:

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in District 1 on Friday, September 4 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.

District 2 Commercial Period:

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in District 2 on Friday, September 4 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. **District 2 commercial fishermen need to confirm their market and identify the location of tenders prior to fishing.**

Preliminary reports from the commercial opening on September 2 indicate a harvest in District 1 of 449 fall chum and 685 coho salmon and District 2 harvest was 1,234 fall chum and 2,157 coho salmon. Preliminary cumulative harvest for the lower Yukon Area during the fall season is approximately 175,127 fall chum and 117,148 coho salmon.

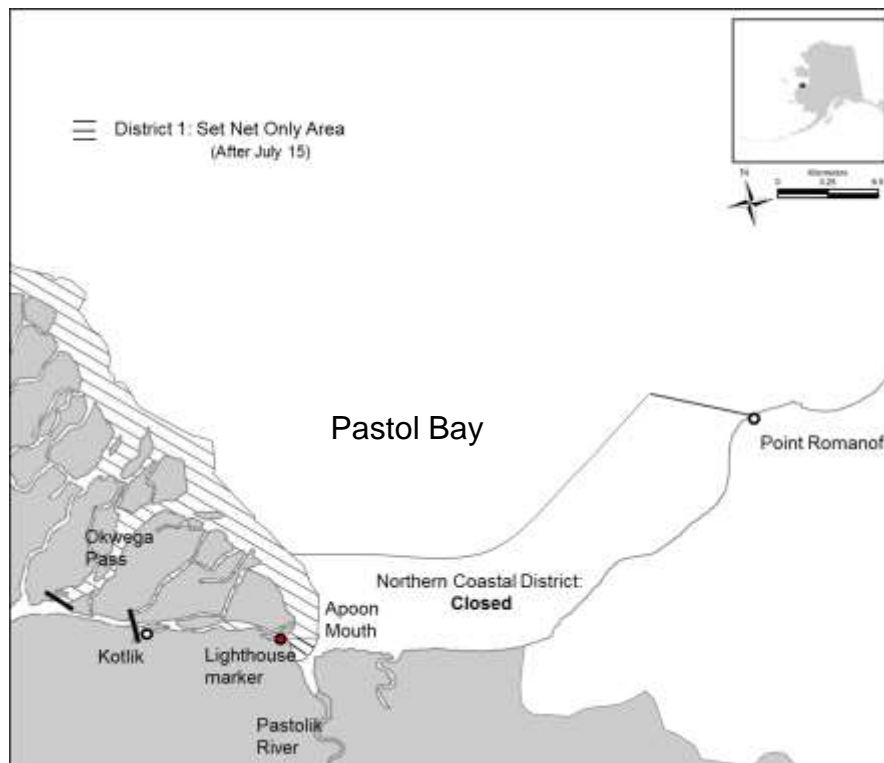
Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 1 and 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 1 and 2, subsistence salmon fishing will close at 3:00 a.m. Friday, September 4, and reopen at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 5.

NOTE THE CHANGE IN SUBSISTENCE CLOSURE AREA: In addition to District 1, the portion of Coastal District from Apoon Mouth to Point Romanof and marine waters up to 3 nautical miles offshore (see attached map) will close at 3:00 a.m. Friday, September 4, and reopen at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 5.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day, toll free at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks office at 459-7274.

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



Map of the District 1 Set Net Only Area and closed area in the Northern Portion of Coastal District.

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