

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



---

Contact:  
Holly Carroll, Area Management Biologist  
Sabrina Garcia, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 949-1320  
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Office  
P.O. Box 127  
Emmonak, Alaska 99581

Date Issued: 6/6/2016

#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 9**

#### **District 1 Commercial and Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The preseason outlook for the 2016 summer chum salmon run is projected to be 1.3 to 1.8 million fish and is anticipated to provide for escapement, a normal subsistence harvest, and a commercially harvestable surplus range of 450,000 to 950,000 fish. Initial management of the summer chum salmon run will be based on the expectation that the 2016 run size will likely be near the upper end of this range, similar to recent years. However, management will continue to be cautious in order to protect the overlapping, below-average Chinook salmon run expected in 2016.

Assessment information from the Lower Yukon Test Fishery indicates that summer chum salmon have been moving slowly into the river over the past week. Reports from subsistence fishermen in Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay indicated that the summer chum salmon run was building on the coast. The travel time for salmon from these communities to the mouth of the river is typically three to five days. It is possible these summer chum salmon would be entering the Yukon River in the next day or two. Favorable wind conditions are forecasted for this evening which may help push this group of summer chum salmon into the river. Therefore, commercial dip net and beach seine fishing opportunity is being provided in District 1 to target this potential group of summer chum salmon. Fishermen are reminded that all Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately to the water. This initial commercial opportunity will inform our assessment of the early part of the run in the lower river.

Fishermen should expect relatively low summer chum salmon catches at the start of the commercial fishing season as it is still early in the summer chum salmon run. On average, the first quarter point of the summer chum salmon run passes the Lower Yukon Test Fishery approximately June 18–June 19 and the Pilot Station sonar on June 22. These early commercial openings provide the processor opportunity to get equipment and employees ready for the upcoming commercial season, prior to the arrival of larger groups of summer chum salmon.

Based on the preseason projection and reports from subsistence fishermen, one commercial fishing period is being offered early in the season for District 1. In an effort to maintain an orderly fishery, subsistence salmon fishing will close two hours prior to the start of the commercial period and subsistence salmon fishing will reopen two hours after the close of the commercial period. All Chinook salmon incidentally encountered during the commercial period must be immediately released alive.

In District 2, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule with dip nets and beach seines only remains in effect and no commercial fishing periods have been announced at this time. Commercial fishing opportunity in District 2 is being evaluated and will depend on the success of early season commercial fishing openings in District 1.

### **Management Actions**

#### **District 1 (including the Black River) Subsistence:**

Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon is currently open with dip net and beach seine gear only, 24 hours a day, seven days per week. All Chinook salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be released alive immediately.

Effective at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon in District 1 will close.

Effective 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, subsistence salmon fishing will reopen with dip net and beach seine gear only 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

#### **District 1 (including the Black River) Commercial:**

Effective at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, commercial fishing for summer chum salmon in District 1 will open with beach seine and dip net gear only.

All Chinook salmon are required to be released alive from dip net and beach seine gear and must be recorded on a fish ticket. This requirement will be strictly enforced. Fishermen are reminded that great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. Fishermen are reminded that beach seine gear may not exceed 150 fathoms in length, 100 meshes in depth, and 4-inches stretched measure. Additionally, beach seines may not be constructed of monofilament webbing.

Summer chum salmon catches and incidental catches and releases of Chinook salmon from this commercial period will be evaluated to determine additional commercial openings.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 455-1849.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-