

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



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**2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 12
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.

As of June 8, the sonar project near Pilot Station estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 10,900 Chinook salmon and a cumulative passage of approximately 86,300 summer chum salmon. Though it is too early in the season to assess run strength, these passage estimates are above average for this date.

The first 12-hour commercial opening in District 1 on June 7 had a preliminary reported harvest of approximately 1,600 summer chum salmon with a total of 61 Chinook salmon caught and released alive.

Two 12-hour commercial fishing periods with dip nets and beach seines are being provided in District 1 to target summer chum salmon. In an effort to maintain an orderly fishery, subsistence salmon fishing will close one hour prior to the start of each commercial period and will reopen one hour after the close of each commercial period. All Chinook salmon incidentally encountered during the commercial periods must be immediately released alive.

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. These opportunities will also help managers assess run timing in the lower river.

Summer chum salmon commercial catches and incidental catch and release reports of Chinook salmon from these commercial periods will be evaluated to determine additional commercial openings.

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.

Management Actions

District 1 (including the Black River) Subsistence:

Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip net and beach seine gear only.

Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Friday, June 10, subsistence salmon fishing will close one hour before, during, and after commercial periods.

Subsistence salmon fishing will open on the following schedule with dip nets and beach seines.

- Saturday, June 11, from 2:00 a.m. until Saturday, June 11, at 12:00 p.m. noon.
- Sunday, June 12, at 2:00 a.m. 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.

District 1 (including the Black River) Commercial:

Commercial fishing for summer chum salmon in District 1 will open with beach seine and dip net gear only for two 12-hour periods as follows:

- Friday, June 10, from 1:00 p.m. until Saturday, June 11, at 1:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 11, at 1:00 p.m. until Sunday, June 12 at 1:00 a.m.

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 ensure 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. Beach seines may not be constructed of monofilament webbing.

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 Emmonak at (907) 949-1798.

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

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