

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Holly Carroll, Area Management Biologist
Sabrina Garcia, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Karen P. Clark, Acting Regional Director
Gene Peltola, Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 13

District 5 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The preseason outlook for Chinook salmon is for a run size similar to last year of 130,000 to 175,000 fish. A precautionary management approach is being taken to restrict the harvest of Chinook salmon until inseason assessment indicates that escapement goals will be met and a reduced subsistence harvest can be supported.

The department has been closing subsistence gillnet fishing as fish move upriver in order to protect the early trickle and first pulse of Chinook salmon before they arrive in each district and then re-opening with selective gear types so fishermen can target summer chum salmon.

This announcement closes subsistence salmon gillnet fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C and reopens the subsistence fishery for summer chum salmon with selective gear 24 hours after the gillnet closure. Selective gear includes dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels which allow the safe release of Chinook salmon. Not all of these gear types may be efficient or effective for your particular area of the river. The use of selective gear is being offered early in the season to help fishermen prepare, but catches may be low until summer chum numbers increase significantly.

A group of approximately 67,800 summer chum salmon passed the sonar project near Pilot Station from June 5–June 8. Based on historical migration timing, a portion of this summer chum salmon group may be in the Tanana area around June 28.

The department encourages subsistence fishermen to report their harvest information as well as their encounter rates with Chinook salmon while fishing for summer chum. These reports are useful for managing the early portion of the summer season.

Management Actions

General Reminders:

- When subsistence gillnet fishing for salmon is closed, fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from dip nets, beach seines, and fish wheels. Fishermen must closely attend the fish wheel and Chinook salmon must be immediately released alive from the livebox. The requirement to release Chinook salmon alive will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released quickly and unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully. Fishermen are also strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.
- 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.
- During subsistence salmon fishing closures in the Yukon Area, gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh of 60 feet or shorter length may be used for non-salmon species. All salmon caught in 4-inch gillnets may be retained, but fishermen are reminded not to target salmon as this gear is intended for non-salmon species.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles downstream of Waldron Creek, including the communities of Tanana and Rampart as well as the area near the Yukon River bridge):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels and 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 16, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets is closed to protect Chinook salmon.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 17, subsistence fishing will reopen with dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels 24 hours a day, seven days per week to target summer chum salmon.

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**.

A fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River in the lower portion of Subdistrict 5-D. Subsistence fishermen outside of the permit area are encouraged to fill out their

subsistence salmon catch calendars. Calendars and subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

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

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