

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 15

District 2 Commercial and Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of June 10, the sonar project near Pilot Station estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 14,500 Chinook salmon and a cumulative passage of approximately 104,400 summer chum salmon. Though it is too early in the season to assess run strength, these passage estimates are above average for this date. On average, the first quarter point of the summer chum salmon run passes the Lower Yukon Test Fishery approximately June 18–June 19 and sonar project near Pilot Station on June 22.

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery had increasing numbers of summer chum starting June 10 which may indicate that the summer chum salmon run is beginning to build. Therefore, two 12-hour commercial periods are being announced in District 2 for Tuesday, June 14, and Thursday, June 16. Subsistence fishing will be closed one hour before, during, and one hour after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishermen are encouraged to go fish for summer chum salmon as numbers have increased and efficiency with dip nets will likely increase. Fishermen requested at pre-season management meetings that the department provide this alternating schedule rather than concurrent subsistence and commercial periods in order to reduce competition among fishing sites.

All Chinook salmon incidentally encountered during subsistence and commercial fishing periods must be immediately released alive.

Management Actions

District 2 Subsistence:

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip nets and beach seines.

Effective 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 14, subsistence salmon fishing will close. Following this closure, subsistence fishing will be closed one hour before, during, and one hour after commercial periods. Subsistence salmon fishing will be on the following schedule:

- 1:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 15, until 11:00 a.m. Thursday, June 16
- Starting at 1:00 a.m., Friday, June 17, open 24 hours a day, seven days per week until further notice.

All Chinook salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be released alive immediately.

District 2 Commercial:

Effective Tuesday, June 14, commercial fishing for summer chum salmon in District 2 will be open for the following periods:

- Tuesday, June 14, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight
- Thursday, June 16, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 12:00 a.m. midnight

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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