

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



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**2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 17
Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area**

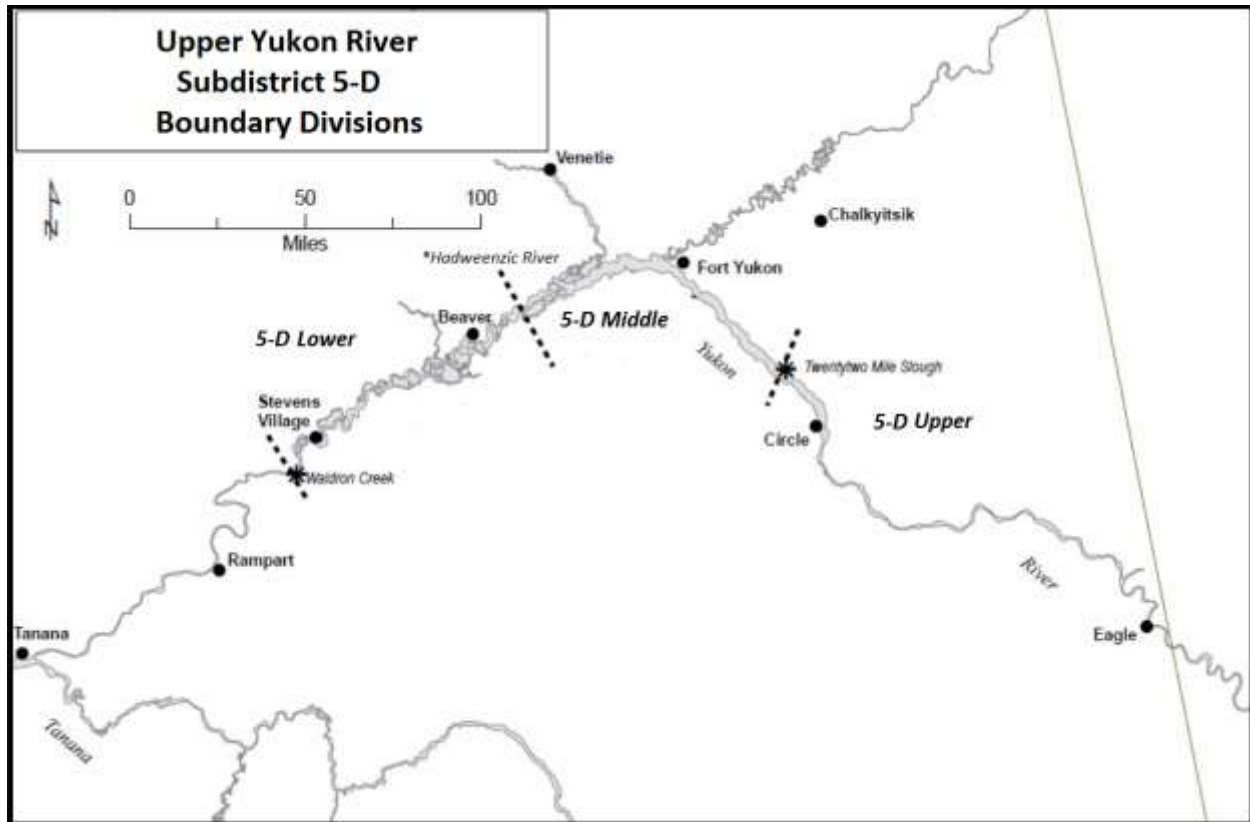
The preseason outlook for Chinook salmon is for a run size similar to last year of 130,000 to 175,000 fish. A precautionary management approach is being taken to restrict the harvest of Chinook salmon until inseason assessment indicates that escapement goals will be met and a reduced subsistence harvest can be supported. Fishery management actions are being implemented in accordance with the preseason management plan discussed at the preseason planning meeting and outlined in the 2016 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook.

The first Chinook salmon was caught in the Lower Yukon Test Fishery on May 24. An early group of Chinook salmon passed the sonar near Pilot Station from June 2–June 4. Based on historical migration timing, the early group of Chinook salmon is expected to be near Stevens Village on June 20, near Fort Yukon on June 24, and near Circle on June 25.

Similar to management actions in 2015, Subdistrict 5-D is being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets prior to the first pulse of Chinook salmon. The intent is to have a gear restriction already in place before the first pulse of Chinook salmon arrive in the subdistrict. This restriction, while allowing some Chinook harvest should target the smaller males. Fishermen should anticipate that the first pulse of Chinook salmon will be protected with a salmon fishing closure.

The department encourages subsistence fishermen to report their subsistence harvest and fishing effort as they provide important information when considering early season management actions.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 5-D and the long time it takes salmon to migrate all the way through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when implementing management actions to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 5-D will be divided into three areas (Map 1):



Management Actions

Subdistrict 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Lower is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 19, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Lower will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with fish wheels or gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon may be retained from both of these gear types.

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including the Porcupine River and all other adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Middle is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Middle will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with fish wheels or gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon may be retained from both of these gear types.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Circle City and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Upper is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 24, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Upper will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with fish wheels or gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon may be retained from both of these gear types.

A fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the following locations: the Yukon River between the western tip of Garnet Island and the Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and the Yukon River from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border. 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.

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 Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274, 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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