

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



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**2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 19
Koyukuk River Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area**

The preseason outlook for Chinook salmon is for a below average 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 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 summer chum. As of June 13, 191,800 summer chum salmon have been counted past the sonar project near Pilot Station.

The first pulse of Chinook salmon counted at the sonar project near Pilot Station started June 11. Based on historical migration timing, this first pulse should be entering the mouth of the Koyukuk River on June 20. Consistent with a conservative management strategy, subsistence salmon fishing is being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the Koyukuk River until further notice to conserve Chinook salmon. This gear restriction allows for the harvest of summer chum salmon while minimizing the impact to the larger Chinook salmon.

The 2016 season is expected to be another challenging year for Yukon River fishermen. ADF&G and USFWS would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the fishermen of the Yukon River for their subsistence fishing reports and their continuing efforts to share in Chinook salmon conservation when these run sizes are below average.

Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Koyukuk River:

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

Effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 20, subsistence salmon fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh. This gear restriction will be in place until further notice.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** (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 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at 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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