

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



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**2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 21  
District 1 Commercial and Subsistence Fishing Schedule  
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area**

As of June 15, the sonar project near Pilot Station estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 53,700 Chinook salmon and a cumulative passage of approximately 296,400 summer chum salmon. These estimates are well above average for this date. Though it is still early in the season to assess run strength, these cumulative passage estimates and the strength of the second pulse currently being counted at the sonar project indicate we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 130,000-175,000 Chinook and 1.3 to 1.8 million summer chum salmon.

Consistent with management strategies discussed at the pre-season meeting, it is warranted to provide a restricted subsistence gillnet opportunity for Chinook and summer chum salmon in the lower districts as the first and second pulse have migrated through these districts.

A single 18-hour gillnet subsistence fishing period is being provided in District 1 on Monday, June 20. During this subsistence period, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Fishermen are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon may be encountered. However, any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use. This gear restriction is meant to provide a chum salmon harvest opportunity while minimizing the harvest of larger, older Chinook salmon.

Commercial dip net and beach seine fishing opportunity for summer chum salmon is being provided in District 1 before and after the subsistence only gillnet fishing period. Further subsistence and commercial periods may be scheduled later in the week dependent on run assessment. Chinook salmon are required to be released immediately when caught in dip net and beach seine gear.

## Management Actions

### **District 1 (including the Black River) Subsistence:**

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open on the following schedule with dip nets and beach seines. All Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately from dip nets and beach seines.

- Friday, June 17, from 4:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 18, from 4:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Effective Monday, June 20, subsistence salmon fishing will open with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for a single 18-hour period. The subsistence salmon gillnet opening times are:

- Monday, June 20, 8:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 21

Following this subsistence gillnet opening, subsistence fishing will be closed until the next subsistence period is announced. All salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use but fishermen are being asked to take a conservative approach to their Chinook salmon harvest.

### **District 1 (including the Black River) Commercial:**

Commercial fishing for summer chum salmon in District 1 will be open for the following periods with dip nets and beach seine gear only:

- Thursday, June 16, from 3:00 p.m. until Friday, June 17, at 3:00 a.m.
- Friday, June 17, from 3:00 p.m. until Saturday, June 18, at 3:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 18, from 3:00 p.m. until Sunday, June 19, at 3:00 a.m.
- Sunday, June 19, from 3:00 p.m. until Monday, June 20, at 3:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 21, from 3:00 p.m. until Wednesday, June 22, at 3:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 22, at 3:00 p.m. until Thursday, June 23 at 3:00 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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