

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



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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 29 Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing Schedule Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

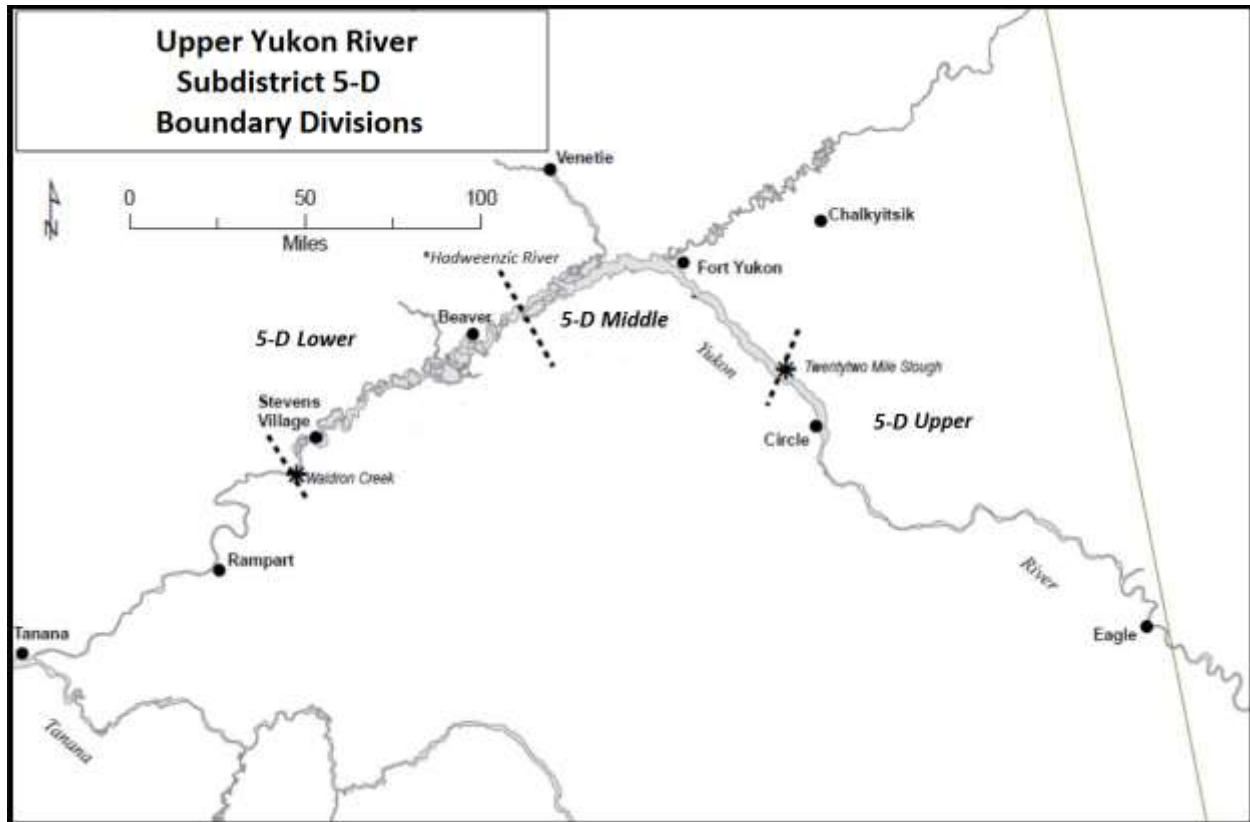
As of June 22, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 101,000 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is well above average for this date, but below average for years with early run timing. However, all indications are that we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 130,000–175,000 Chinook salmon based on early run timing.

The early group of Chinook salmon passed the sonar near Pilot Station from June 2–June 4. Based on average swimming speed, the early group of Chinook salmon was expected near Beaver on June 22, near Fort Yukon on June 24, and near Circle on June 25. Consistent with management actions discussed at preseason meetings, Subdistrict 5-D was restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels during the early group of Chinook salmon, prior to the upriver migration of the first pulse of Chinook salmon.

The first pulse of approximately 22,600 Chinook salmon passed the sonar project near Pilot Station from June 11–June 14. The first pulse is expected to be near Stevens Village on June 29, Fort Yukon on July 3, and Circle on July 4. In line with the Chinook salmon management plan, Subdistrict 5-D will be closed to gillnet and fish wheel subsistence salmon fishing to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon.

Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon closures.

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 6 inches or smaller.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Lower will close.

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 6 inches or smaller.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 1, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Middle will close.

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.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 3, subsistence fishing for salmon in Subdistrict 5-D Upper will close.

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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