

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 35**

#### **District 2 Subsistence and Commercial Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of June 23, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 109,000 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is well above average for this date, but below average for years with early run timing. The cumulative passage of summer chum salmon is approximately 868,000 fish and indicates we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 1.3 to 1.8 million summer chum salmon based on early run timing.

The first three pulses of Chinook salmon have migrated out of District 2. Therefore, commercial gillnet opportunity is being provided in District 2 to target summer chum salmon with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh. This period is to allow for summer chum salmon commercial opportunity that is more efficient than dip nets and beach seines, while also minimizing the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use. Chinook salmon retained for subsistence use during the commercial gillnet opening must be recorded on a fish ticket as "kept but not sold". One 9-hour subsistence salmon fishing period is being scheduled following the commercial opening.

Catch reports from early commercial gillnet openings will be evaluated prior to the determination of future openings. Commercial fishermen in District 2 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding further gillnet openings.

#### **Management Actions**

#### **District 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

Subsistence salmon fishing is open for **one 9-hour period** with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets from 3:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. midnight Sunday, June 26.

Chinook salmon caught in gillnets may be retained for subsistence use. Dip nets and beach seines may not be used during gillnet openings. Between the fishing periods subsistence salmon fishing is closed.

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

### **District 2 Commercial Fishing Schedule:**

Effective 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 24, commercial salmon fishing will be open for two 12-hour periods with dip nets and beach seines:

- 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 24, until 3:00 a.m. Saturday, June 25
- 3:00 p.m. Saturday, June 25, until 3:00 a.m. Sunday, June 26

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.

Effective at 12:00 p.m. noon Monday, June 27, the dip net and beach seine commercial fishery will close and commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 2 will open for a **4-hour** commercial fishing period with gillnets **restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh** for the following commercial fishing period:

- Monday, June 27, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 4:00 p.m.

All Chinook salmon caught in gillnets may be retained for subsistence use. Chinook salmon retained from commercial gillnet gear must be recorded on a fish ticket as “kept but not sold”.

All Chinook salmon caught and retained for subsistence use during the commercial gillnet opening must be marked by removing both tips of the tail fin. The tips must be removed before concealing the Chinook salmon from plain view or before transferring the salmon from the fishing site.

The subsistence and commercial 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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