

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 41

Subdistrict 4-A Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of June 26, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 126,500 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is well above average for this date, but below average for years with early run timing. However, based on sonar and run timing estimates, the 2016 Chinook salmon run is on track to be near the middle to upper end of the preseason outlook range of 130,000 to 175,000 Chinook salmon. A run of this size should be adequate to meet escapement goals and provide a limited harvestable surplus of Chinook salmon for subsistence.

Consistent with management strategies discussed at the pre-season meeting, subsistence fishing has been opened in Subdistrict 4-A on a reduced regulatory schedule of two 24-hour periods per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch mesh in an effort to provide summer chum harvest and limited harvest of Chinook salmon. A single 6-hour subsistence salmon fishing period with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is being provided between the two 24-hour periods to provide a brief opportunity to target Chinook salmon. Subsistence fishing is closed between these periods.

Management Actions

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling including all tributaries):

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Thursdays
- 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Mondays

Effective Friday, July 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. midnight subsistence fishing is open for one 6-hour period with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

All salmon caught in gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

As previously announced, the selective gear fishing season is closed effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 27 and subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays
- 6:00 p.m. Thursdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays

Effective Wednesday, July 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. midnight subsistence fishing is open for one 6-hour period with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Drift and set gillnets are allowed in all of Subdistrict 4-A during subsistence salmon openings. All salmon caught in gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use.

Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets of 60 feet or shorter length to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon fishing closures. Dip nets and beach seines may no longer be used for subsistence fishing.

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 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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