

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



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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 46 Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of June 27, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 134,000 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 projected 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 opened in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C on a reduced regulatory schedule of two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in an effort to provide more efficient summer chum salmon harvest and a 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

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Currently, subsistence summer chum salmon fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with selective gear including dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels only. Any Chinook salmon caught in these gear types must be immediately released to the water alive. The selective gear fishing season is closed effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 3.

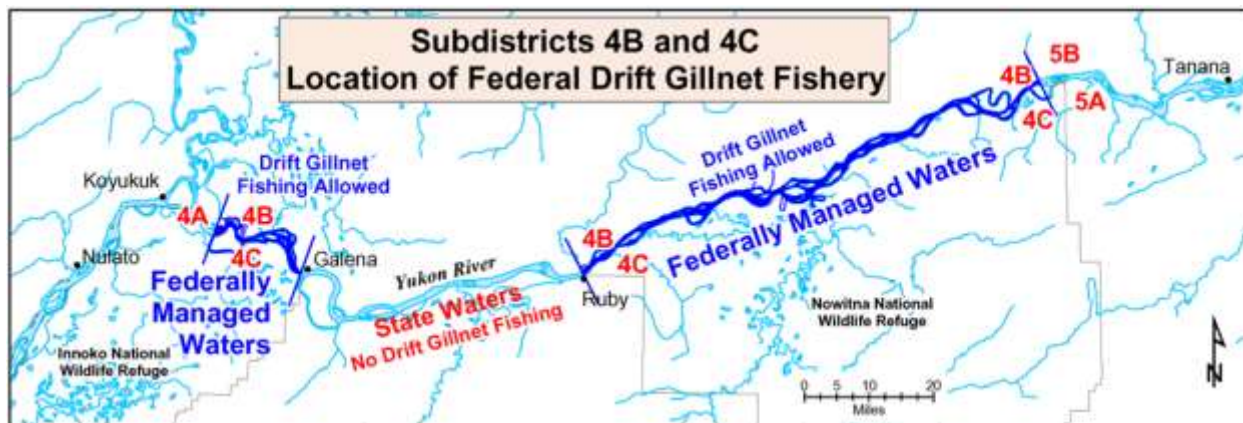
Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 3, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the following schedule:

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

Effective Friday, July 8, 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.

Federal regulations allow the use of drift gillnets for the subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon in Federal public waters in Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C from June 10 through July 14 during scheduled gillnet openings and permits are no longer required. Fishermen who want to fish with drift gillnets in Federal public waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C may do so with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear during the 24-hr periods and they may use 7.5-inch mesh gillnets during special 6-hour period on July 8. Anyone outside of these areas are limited to set gillnets only.



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.

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