

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



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#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 47**

#### **Districts 1 and 2 Commercial Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of June 28, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 138,000 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 1,160,000 fish and indicates an available surplus well above escapement and subsistence needs in accordance with the summer chum salmon management plan.

The first three pulses of Chinook salmon have migrated out of Districts 1 and 2. Though summer chum salmon catches have recently dropped off at the LTYF project, additional groups of summer chum salmon are expected to move into the river. Therefore, commercial gillnet opportunity is being provided in Districts 1 and 2 to target summer chum salmon.

In District 1, gillnets are restricted to 5.5-inch or smaller mesh not exceeding 30 meshes in depth for the upcoming periods. This gear restriction is to allow for summer chum salmon commercial opportunity while also minimizing the incidental harvest of large Chinook salmon. Commercial fishing in District 1 will be open in the whole district. Commercial fishermen should stand by for short-notice announcements for future periods once catch data from these commercial periods are analyzed.

Any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be kept 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".

In both Districts 1 and 2, subsistence salmon fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week but will be closed six hours before, during, and six hours after commercial periods.

## **Management Actions**

### **District 1 Commercial Gillnet:**

Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open in all of District 1 for two 6-hour periods with 5.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets not exceeding 30 meshes deep to target summer chum salmon:

- Saturday, July 2, from 8:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Sunday, July 3
- Sunday, July 3, from 8:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Monday, July 4

### **District 2 Commercial Gillnet:**

Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open for two 4-hour periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to target summer chum salmon:

- Friday, July 1, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 3, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

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