

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: 7/06/2016

2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 53

Districts 1 and 2 Commercial Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of July 5, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 160,000 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is below average for years with early run timing. Based on historical timing, the Chinook salmon run is approximately 96% complete in the lower river.

The cumulative summer chum salmon sonar passage estimate through July 5 is approximately 1,537,000 fish. A run of this size has an available surplus well above escapement and subsistence needs in accordance with the summer chum salmon management plan. Summer chum salmon are still present in the lower river as indicated by Lower Yukon Test Fishery catches and passage at the sonar project near Pilot Station. Therefore, a commercial fishing schedule is being established in Districts 1 and 2 to target summer chum salmon.

Any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be kept for subsistence use. Chinook salmon kept for subsistence use during commercial gillnet openings 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 Schedule:

As previously announced, commercial salmon fishing will be open for one 6-hour period in District 1 with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to target summer chum salmon:

- Wednesday, July 6, from 8:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 7

Following this period, through the end of the summer season, commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 1 will be open for six 9-hour periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets on the following schedule:

- Friday, July 8, from 6:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Saturday, July 9
- Saturday, July 9, from 6:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Sunday, July 10
- Sunday, July 10, from 6:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Monday, July 11
- Monday, July 11, from 6:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 12
- Wednesday, July 13, from 6:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Thursday, July 14
- Friday, July 15, from 6:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Saturday, July 16

District 2 Commercial Gillnet Schedule:

As previously announced, commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open for one 4-hour period with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to target summer chum salmon:

- Thursday, July 7, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Following this period, through the end of the summer season, commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 2 will be open for six 6-hour periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets on the following schedule:

- Saturday, July 9, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 10, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 12, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 14, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday, July 16, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 17, from 4:00 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 kept for subsistence use during 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 Fairbanks at (907) 455-1849.

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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