

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #54**

#### **Subdistrict 4-A Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

Based on sonar and run timing estimates, the 2016 summer chum salmon run is anticipated to exceed the preseason projection of 1.8 million fish. As of July 5, the cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the sonar project near Pilot Station was approximately 1,537,000 fish. As of July 5, the cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the sonar project near Pilot Station was approximately 160,000 fish, which is below average based on early year run timing. However, a run size of this magnitude is likely to meet escapement goals and provide for a limited subsistence harvest.

Given that the Chinook salmon run is nearly over in the subdistrict and summer chum salmon are still present, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule is being relaxed in Subdistrict 4-A beginning Wednesday, July 13. Subsistence fishing will be open five days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels. The gillnet restriction is meant to provide a chum salmon harvest opportunity while minimizing the harvest of larger, older Chinook salmon.

#### **District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

**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):

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 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, subsistence salmon fishing will be open five days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays

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.

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

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

As previously announced, 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.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 14, subsistence salmon fishing will be open five days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays

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 **1-866-479-7387** (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 949-1320 or the USFWS in Fairbanks at 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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