

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



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**2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #57
Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area**

As of July 10, the cumulative passage of summer chum salmon by the sonar near Pilot Station is approximately 1,714,000 fish. Based on sonar counts and current commercial harvests, the 2016 summer chum salmon run has exceeded the preseason projection of 1.8 million fish. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the sonar was approximately 169,000 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 middle section of the Yukon River and summer chum salmon are still present, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule is being relaxed in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C beginning Sunday, July 17. 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.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

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

- 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 10, until 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 11
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday July 13 until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 14

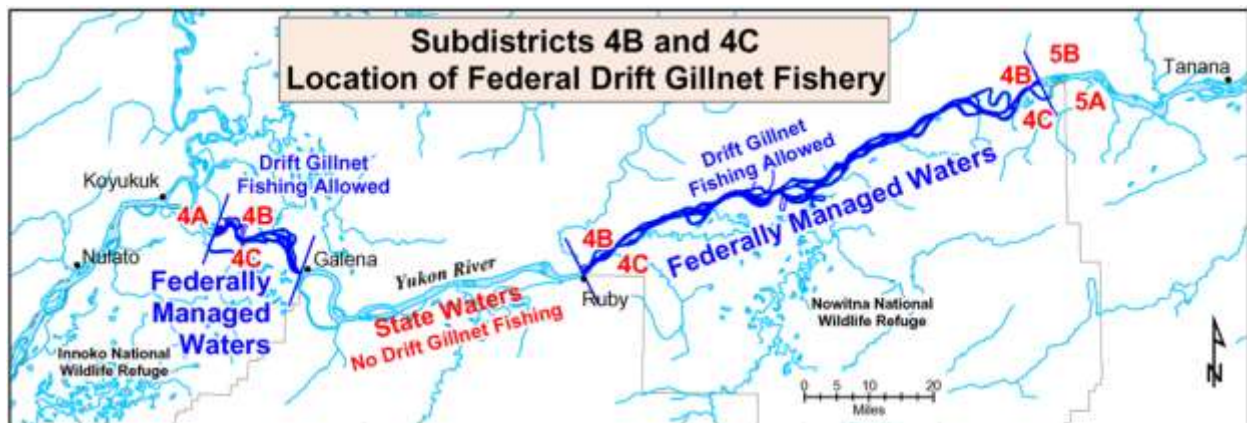
Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 17, subsistence salmon fishing will be open five days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the following schedule:

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

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. Anyone outside of these areas are limited to set gillnets only.

Fishing with drift gillnets in the Federal public waters closes by regulation at midnight on July 14. Therefore, effective at the end of the period scheduled to close 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 14, drift gillnets may not be used in any portion of Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C.



Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets of 60 feet or shorter length to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon fishing closures.

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 459-7274 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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