

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Holly Carroll, Area Management Biologist
Sabrina Garcia, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Anchorage Regional Office
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518
Phone: (907) 267-2324
Fax: (907) 267-2442

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Karen P. Clark, Acting Regional Director
Gene Peltola, Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

Date Issued: July 13, 2016

2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 60

Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing Schedule

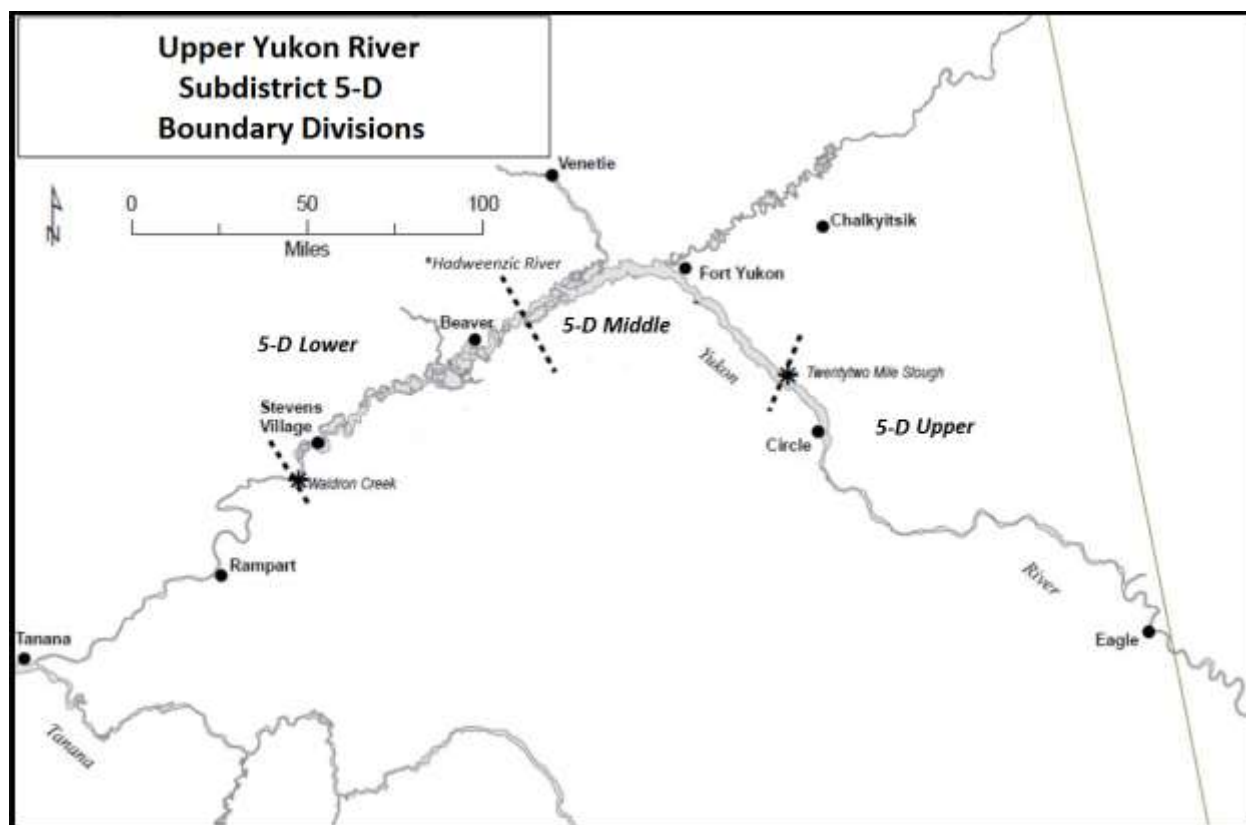
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of July 12, the sonar project near Eagle has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 13,500 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is above average for this date, but it is still too early to determine the strength of the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run. The second pulse of Chinook salmon should start passing the sonar project sometime between July 13 and July 15. In an effort to provide limited subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon, a 24-hour subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels is being scheduled in Subdistrict 5-D. Fishermen may also use fish wheels which are not required to be manned or have a live box during this opening.

Unlike lower river districts, Subdistrict 5-D does not see high numbers of summer chum salmon. The majority of Chinook salmon migrating through Subdistrict 5-D are Canadian-origin. In an effort to remain conservative, gillnets are being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to reduce the harvest of large, female Chinook salmon headed to spawning areas in Canada. Fishermen are encouraged to contact the department and report their subsistence harvest after this opening. These harvest reports help provide information on run strength and can help direct future management actions in the upper river. Fishermen in Subdistrict 5-D should standby for future announcements regarding additional subsistence openings if run assessment at the border indicates further openings are warranted.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 5-D and the long time it takes salmon to migrate all the way through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy

is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when implementing management actions to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 5-D will be divided into three areas (Map 1):



Management Actions

Subdistrict 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Lower is currently closed.

- Effective at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, July 17, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 24-hour period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 7:00 p.m. Sunday, July 17, until 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 18.

Chinook salmon caught in 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence purposes.

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including the Porcupine River and all other adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, and Fort Yukon):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Middle is currently closed.

- As previously announced, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 12-hour period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 14.
- Effective at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, July 17, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 24-hour period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 7:00 p.m. Sunday, July 17, until 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 18.

Chinook salmon caught in 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence purposes.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D Upper is currently closed.

The previously announced 12-hour subsistence period will be extended for an additional 24 hours.

- Effective at 9:00 p.m. Friday, July 15, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 36-hour period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 9:00 p.m. Friday, July 15, until 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 17.

Chinook salmon caught in 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence purposes.

A fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the following locations: the Yukon River between the western tip of Garnet Island and the Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and the Yukon River from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border. Subsistence fishermen outside of the permit area are encouraged to fill out their subsistence salmon catch calendars. Calendars and subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated. Gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60 feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species.

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 Fairbanks at (907) 455-1849.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-