

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 61

Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing Schedule

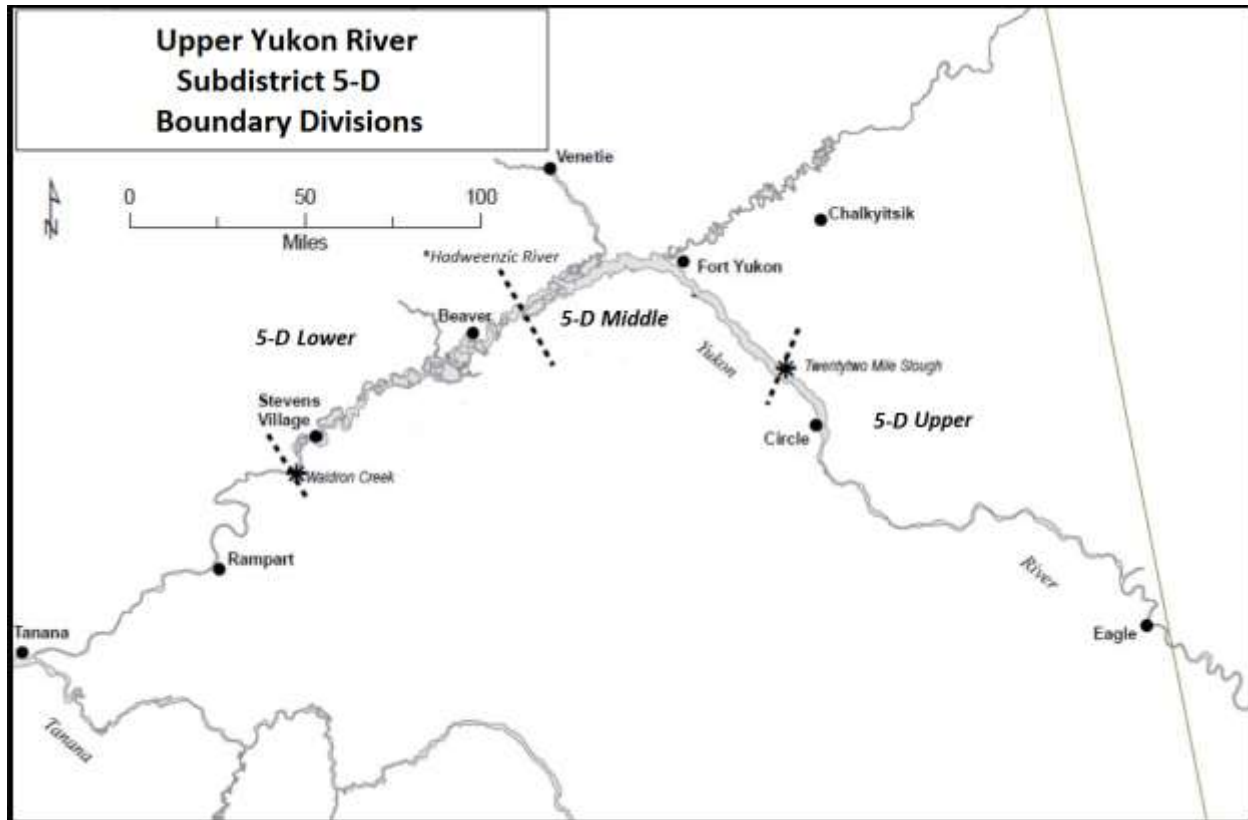
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The first two pulses of Chinook salmon have passed the sonar project near Eagle. As of July 14, the sonar project near Eagle has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 21,600 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is above average for this date, but it is still too early to confidently determine the strength of the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run. The midpoint of the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run at the sonar project near Eagle is expected around July 20. In an effort to provide limited subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon, a 3.5-day fishing period, consistent with the reduced regulatory windows schedule, is being scheduled in Subdistrict 5-D. Fishermen may use 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and 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. Additionally, 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. 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 has been 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 has been 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.
- Effective 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 3.5-day period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, until 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 24.

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.

- 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.
- Effective 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 3.5-day period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, until 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 24.

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.

- 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.
- Effective 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 3.5-day period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, until 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 24.

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.

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