

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: July 19, 2016

#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 64**

#### **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 18, the sonar project near Eagle has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 36,200 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is above average for this date. Multiple days of high passage at the sonar project have increased confidence that the border objective will be met. Therefore, in an effort to provide additional subsistence opportunity for Chinook salmon, the 3.5-day fishing period previously announced will be extended for an extra 26 hours in Subdistrict 5-D on the front end of the period. Fishermen may use 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels (which are not required to be manned or have a live box).

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 stand by for future announcements regarding relaxing the fishing schedule if run assessment at the border warrants increased harvest opportunity.

## Management Actions

**Subdistrict 5-D** (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries and the villages of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5-D is currently closed.

The previously announced 3.5-day fishing period scheduled to begin at 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, **will now begin earlier at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 19**, on the following schedule:

- Effective 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 4.5-day period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fish wheels from 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, 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.

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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