

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

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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 66

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of July 20, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 175,700 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is near the upper end of the preseason projection range. The first two pulses of Chinook salmon have passed the sonar project near Eagle. As of July 20, the sonar project near Eagle has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 42,400 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is above average for this date. The lower end of the border objective of 42,500–55,000 Chinook salmon will likely be met in the next few days.

Consistent with management actions in the lower river, the subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will be relaxed to five days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in an effort to provide summer chum salmon harvest and avoid the harvest of large, female Chinook salmon headed to spawning areas in Canada. Though all four pulses have migrated out of the subdistricts, smaller numbers of Chinook salmon should still be present in the subdistricts. Fishermen may also use fish wheels which are not required to be manned.

Management Actions

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles downstream of Waldron Creek, including the communities of Tanana and Rampart as well as the area near the Yukon River bridge):

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing is open for one more 48-hour period with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (set net only) and fish wheels:

- 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 21

Effective 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 21, subsistence salmon will be open with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (set net only) and fish wheels on the regulatory schedule of 5 days per week:

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

Because this schedule goes into effect halfway through the regulatory schedule on Thursday, July 21, the first period of this schedule will be in effect from Thursday to Sunday. Following this shortened initial period, the schedule will then be fully in effect from Tuesdays to Sundays.

All salmon caught in set gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use.

Subsistence salmon fishing is closed between periods. 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. Dip nets and beach seines may no longer be used for subsistence fishing.

A fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River in the lower portion of Subdistrict 5-D.

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.

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