

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2016 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 8

Yukon River District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area
Emergency Order # 8

The 2016 fall chum salmon preseason run projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon run size relationship, is for a run size between 800,000 and 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be sufficient to provide for escapement, an above average subsistence harvest, and a surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes. The estimated fall chum salmon passage at the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station through July 23 is estimated to be 275,8000 fish, which is above the historical median of 63,100 fish for that date. The first pulse of fall chum salmon entered the Yukon River on July 18 and finished passing the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station yesterday. The first pulse is expected to be near Kaltag on July 30, Galena around August 1, and Ruby around August 2. As a result of the Chinook salmon restrictions put in place in the Yukon Area this season, the department is increasing the opportunity to harvest fall chum salmon for subsistence use. Therefore, the current subsistence schedule in District 4 is being relaxed.

Consistent with transitioning to fall season management, the District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be placed on the following schedule:

Subdistrict 4-A: Subdistrict 4-A begins three quarters of a mile below Old Paradise Village at the mouth of an unnamed slough and runs upstream to the tip of Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River villages of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk.

Subdistrict 4-A is currently on a 5-day per week subsistence salmon fishing schedule from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays through 6:00 p.m. Sundays. Fishermen may use fish wheels or 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets (set or drift).

Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, subsistence salmon fishing will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size up to 7.5 inches. Drift gillnet fishing in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek closes by regulation after August 2. Drift gillnet fishing will remain open, by regulation, **in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek.**

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C: Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C include that section of river from the tip of Cone Point upstream to the westernmost edge of Illinois Creek of the Yukon River and includes the mainstem Yukon River villages of Galena and Ruby.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C is currently on a 5-day per week subsistence salmon fishing schedule, from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays with 6-inch or smaller mesh size set gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 31, subsistence salmon fishing will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size up to 7.5 inches.

In District 4, during subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated. However, subsistence fishermen targeting non-salmon species may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 455-1845.

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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