

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2016 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 55

Porcupine River Subsistence Fishing

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area
Emergency Order #46

Based on the current fall chum salmon passage and favorable projections at the Fishing Branch River weir and Porcupine River border sonar projects, the subsistence fishing closure is being relaxed to a reduced fishing schedule on the Porcupine River. The estimated fall chum salmon passage at the Porcupine River border sonar through September 15 is 31,168 fish, which is above the 5-year median of 12,574 fish for that date. At the Fishing Branch River weir, the fall chum salmon passage is 7,298 fish through September 14, which is above the historical median of 6,459 fish for that date. On September 14, the Porcupine River border sonar reached the historical midpoint of the fall chum salmon run and the Fishing Branch River weir reached the quarter point. Both assessment projects are above the historical cumulative passages for this date and are projecting to be near or above the lower end of the escapement objective at the Fishing Branch River (22,000-49,000). Therefore, the department is relaxing the subsistence fishing closure to a reduced fishing schedule on the Porcupine River to provide some harvest opportunity while continuing cautious management of this chronically underperforming fall chum salmon stock. Managers will continue to closely monitor fall chum escapement into the Fishing Branch River.

Porcupine River: Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed on the mainstem of the Porcupine River, including those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River (see attached map). During this closure, fishermen may fish for non-salmon

species using gear with a mesh size of 4 inches or less. Tributaries such as the Sheenjek, Black, Coleen, and Salmon Trout Rivers remain open.

Effective 12:00 noon, Monday, September 19, subsistence fishing will be open on a 72-hour subsistence fishing schedule from 12:00 noon Mondays to 12:00 noon Thursdays in the Porcupine River, including those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River (see attached map). Subsistence fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels during the fishing periods. Subsistence salmon fishing will remain closed between the 72-hour fishing periods on the Porcupine River, including those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River. During the closures, fishermen may fish for non-salmon species using gill net gear with a mesh size of 4 inches or less. Tributaries such as the Sheenjek, Black, Coleen, and Salmon Trout Rivers remain open.

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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