

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



---

Contact:  
Jeff Estensen, Area Management Biologist  
Christy Gleason, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 459-7217  
Fax: (907) 459-7271

Upper Yukon Area Office  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Date Issued: 9/26/2016

**2016 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 57  
Fall Update # 10, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery  
Districts Affected: Yukon Area**

**Fall Season Assessment**

The 2016 fall chum salmon total run size projection, based on inseason assessment, is for 1.5 million fish. Because of the large size and timing of the third pulse and a small pulse that occurred the first week of September, the overall run timing is later than average. The coho salmon run size projection is for an above average return. Coho salmon timing is 1-5 days later than average based on the lower river assessment projects.

The large third pulse of fall chum salmon that entered the Yukon River on August 10 has peaked at the sonar project operated at the Chandalar River and approaching the peak at the Yukon River mainstem at Eagle. The fourth pulse of fish that began entering the Yukon River on August 20 is expected to be near Eagle on September 26. The fifth pulse is expected to be between Circle and Eagle this week. A sixth pulse is expected to be near Tanana and Huslia on September 26, and the Border around October 13. On the Tanana River, The sixth pulse is expected to arrive September 29-October 2 between Manley and Nenana respectively. Most of the fall chum salmon in the last pulse are bound for the Tanana River.

Pulses of coho salmon began entering the lower river on August 14, 20, 31 and September 7. The first pulse of coho salmon is entering the spawning grounds of the Nenana and Delta Clearwater rivers at this time. The second pulse is expected to be near Nenana around September 30. The third pulse is expected to be near Tanana on October 3 and Nenana around October 11. The fourth pulse is expected to be near Kaltag on September 28, Tanana on October 10 and Nenana around October 18. The fall season is considered over in the lower river and winding down in the upper river as winter approaches.

**Fall Assessment Projects**Lower Yukon River Cooperative Fall Drift Test Fishing/ADF&G, YDFDA

The project completed operations for 2016 season on September 10. The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through September 10 was 1,900.17, which is below the historical median of 2,098.98 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through September 10 was 528.14, which is near the historical median of 527.72 for this date.

Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing/Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council

The project completed operations for 2016 season on September 12. The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through September 12 was 2,942.96, which is well above the historical median of 2,002.57 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through September 12 was 838.91, which is below the historical median of 1,086.98 for this date.

Sonar Project near Pilot Station/ADF&G

The mainstem sonar near Pilot Station completed operations for 2016 season on August 31. The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through August 31 was 992,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 669,500 fish for this date. The cumulative coho salmon passage estimate through August 31 was 168,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 132,900 fish for this date. Run timing was six days late for fall chum salmon and two days late for coho salmon at this project.

Chandalar River Sonar/USFWS

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through September 25 was 242,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 195,000 fish for this date. The upper end of the escapement goal range of 74,000 to 152,000 fish was achieved on September 18.

Upper Porcupine River Sonar/DFO

The cumulative chum salmon passage estimate through September 25 is 38,600 fall chum salmon which is above the 2011 to 2015 average of 20,000 for this date. This project passed the average three-quarter point for run timing on September 23.

Fishing Branch River Weir/DFO

The installation of the weir and operations have been hampered by high water much of the early season and again last week. Preliminary cumulative passage counts from September 8-25 are 15,000 fall chum salmon which is near the median passage of 16,700 for this date. The average three-quarter point for run timing is September 29 at the historical weir site.

Sonar Project near Eagle/ADF&G and DFO

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through September 25 was 75,800 fish, which is below the median passage of approximately 116,000 fish for this date. The average three-quarter point for run timing is September 28 at the historical sonar site.

**Fall Season Management Strategy**

The Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, 3, and Subdistrict 5-D as well as the Innoko and Koyukuk Rivers have been on their full regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedules of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the entire fall season. As a result of the Chinook salmon restrictions put in place in the Yukon Area this season, the department increased the opportunity to harvest fall

chum salmon for subsistence use in most areas. Subsistence salmon fishing has been liberalized to seven days per week, 24 hours per day in District 4 and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. District 6 currently remains on their standard regulatory schedules. Subsistence fishermen may use gillnets with 7.5 inch mesh or smaller during the fall season.

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 was relaxed to a reduced fishing schedule on the Porcupine River of 72 hours per week. Managers will continue to closely monitor fall chum escapement into the Fishing Branch River.

### **Current Subsistence Fishing Schedules**

**Coastal District** (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof and including all state marine waters), and **Districts 1, 2, and 3**:

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**District 4** (from ¾ mile downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Illinois Creek, which includes all adjacent tributaries and the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Drift gillnet fishing is open **only in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek.** Drift gillnets may not exceed 25 fathoms in length.

**District 5** (from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the following locations: Between the western tip of Garnet Island and the Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

### **Porcupine River:**

Effective Monday, September 19, subsistence fishing in the Porcupine River is open on a 72-hour schedule from 12:00 noon Mondays to 12:00 noon Thursdays, including those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River. Fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels. 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 gear with a mesh size of 4 inches or less. Subsistence salmon fishing in tributaries such as the Sheenjek, Black, Coleen, and Salmon Trout Rivers remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B** (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the regulatory marker at the mouth of Wood River, which includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B is open for two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays, with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

The Kantishna River is open on its regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule of 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

The Old Minto area is open on its regulatory schedule of five days per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage. Permits are available from the ADF&G office in Fairbanks. Subsistence fishermen fishing in the upper portion of Subdistrict 6-B, from three miles upstream of the mouth of Totchaket Slough to Wood River, are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, please provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

**Subdistricts 6-C** (from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Personal use salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday and from 6:00 p.m. Monday until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesday. Fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

A reminder to fishermen that a personal use salmon fishing permit and a sport fish license are required to fish in Subdistrict 6-C of the Tanana River. Fishermen are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, please provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

**Upper Tanana Area** (the Tanana River from the confluence with the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank upstream to the Tanana River headwaters, including the communities of Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Northway, and the Tok area):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Fishermen may use fish wheels and gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish in the Upper Tanana River Drainage.

### **Commercial Fishing:**

#### **Fall Season Commercial Salmon Fishing**

The commercial fishing season is open in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, and in District 6. Processors, catcher sellers, or direct marketers interested in operating in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C must notify the department by contacting the Fairbanks office at 459-7274.

#### **Subdistrict 5-B, and 5-C Commercial Fishing Schedule:**

Commercial fishing in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week until further notice. Fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with 6 inch or smaller mesh size. The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest through September 25 is 2,106 fall chum salmon.

#### **District 6 Commercial Fishing Schedule:**

Commercial fishing in District 6 is open for two 42-hour fishing periods per week on the following schedule with 6 inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels:

- 6:00 p.m. Mondays, until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays
- 6:00 p.m. Fridays, until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest through September 25 is 8,010 fall chum and 3,307 coho salmon.

All Yukon Area commercial fishermen should confirm their market prior to commercial fishing. Processors, catcher sellers, or direct marketers must notify the department of their intent to operate by contacting the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. All fish species harvested and not sold must be recorded on the fish ticket as “caught but not sold”.

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 **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 is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-