

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



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**2019 Yukon River Salmon Fishery News Release #1
Board of Fisheries Actions: Yukon Area Regulatory Changes
Districts Affected: Yukon River Area**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Anchorage from January 15 to 19 to consider proposals concerning the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area.

Public testimony and contributors to substitute language included fishermen, representatives from Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Representatives from several Yukon Area Advisory Committees testified and the board also received written comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff would like to thank everyone for their hard work on the proposals, thoughtful testimony, and for their efforts in building consensus on the substitute regulatory language.

The following is a brief summary of the regulatory changes that were adopted and will be effective for the 2019 fishing season. Fishermen should expect future News Releases detailing relevant gear specifications or other changes once the regulatory language is finalized.

YUKON AREA SUBSISTENCE PROPOSALS

Each of the following subsistence proposals was passed as amended with substitute language.

Proposal 86 The use of hook and line as a legal subsistence gear is extended from Paimiut Slough (near Holy Cross) to the Nulato River (near the community of Nulato); in waters of the Yukon River drainage from the coast to the north bank of the mouth of the Nulato River (including the Nulato River drainage) hook and line may be used year-round as subsistence gear for salmon and non-salmon species.

Proposal 88 This proposal was passed to prevent Chinook salmon from being held in a fish wheel live box during times of conservation. Holding in a live box causes stress to fish that are going to be released. During times of Chinook salmon conservation, fish wheels must be closely attended, and all Chinook salmon must be immediately released to the water alive by means of a chute, net, or tote, and may not enter any live box. Fish wheel users that do not operate a live

box, must still release Chinook salmon immediately to the water alive during times of conservation.

Proposal 89 Added dip nets to the list of legal gear types subsistence fishermen may use for salmon. Additionally, during times of Chinook salmon conservation, the department may allow the retention of Chinook salmon from dip nets, beach seines, or fish wheels by Emergency Order (EO).

Proposal 90 Gives the department the ability to reduce the 24-hour subsistence fishing closure prior to the start of the commercial fishing season.

Proposal 93 Removes requirement to clip both tips (lobes) of the tail of subsistence-taken Chinook salmon in Districts 1-3 when there is no commercial fishery for Chinook salmon. However, if the department anticipates the sale of Chinook salmon, fishermen will be required to remove the lobes in order to mark fish and prevent the illegal sale of subsistence-caught Chinook salmon.

Proposal 95 Adoption of this proposal modifies the maximum amount of gear used in a portion of Subdistrict 5-C. In Subdistrict 5-C, between the ADF&G marker near Waldron Creek and Hess Creek, a set gillnet used by an individual for subsistence fishing may not exceed 150 feet in length.

Proposal 96 Adoption of this proposal modifies the subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. When the fall chum salmon inseason projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, is for 700,000 or more fish, in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C, subsistence salmon fishing will be seven days a week consistent with the migratory timing of the fall chum salmon fishery. Fishing periods may be altered for the conservation of Chinook salmon.

Proposal 178 Allows drift gillnets (with a maximum length of 150 feet) for subsistence salmon fishing (Chinook, summer and fall chum and coho) in all of District 4.

YUKON AREA COMMERCIAL PROPOSALS

Proposal 101 Allows the department flexibility in continuing late season fall commercial fishing; the department may close the fall chum and coho salmon commercial seasons by EO, instead of by a date set in regulation.

MINTO PIKE SUBSISTENCE PROPOSALS

Proposal 69 Passed with amendment. Adoption of this proposal added a size restriction to northern pike which can be kept within the Chatanika River Harvest Area (from an ADF&G marker approximately one river mile upstream of the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to an ADF&G marker at the boundary of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area). **However, the new size restriction will not be in place for the spring 2019 season.** Fishermen will be notified when the new regulation goes into effect.

Meeting summary, recorded audio, and meeting documents may be found on the Board of Fisheries website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=01-15-2019&meeting=anchorage>

The next Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish meeting will be in 2022.