



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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Toll free fishing schedule and counts: 866-479-7387

2023 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #5 Summer Update # 1, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Late and intense breakup conditions in the Yukon Area have impacted many communities this year, and we acknowledge the hardship this has caused residents along the river as they prepare for spring and summer subsistence activities. While late breakup may cause salmon to delay their entry into the river, some fish have likely begun to travel upriver to areas where ice has already gone out.

The 2023 Chinook salmon run size is forecasted to be small and unlikely to meet escapement objectives or provide any surplus for harvest. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach this season, subsistence fishing closures will start during the trickle and first pulse of the Chinook salmon run. This is intended to protect Chinook salmon stocks while they migrate upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. Salmon fishing closures have been announced in the Lower Yukon to protect all early Chinook salmon.

The summer chum salmon run will be assessed as it enters the river. If the summer chum salmon run is projected to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal (at least 500,000 fish), fishing opportunities with selective gear types may be announced. The last few years, the summer chum salmon run has been entering the river up to a week late, and the midpoint of the run at Pilot Station Sonar has been around July 3. It is unlikely that any fishing for salmon would occur prior to the midpoint of the summer chum salmon run.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates) and shared during the YRDFA teleconferences. The first teleconference will be Tuesday, **June 6 at 1:00 p.m. (Alaska time). Call in number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#**

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open regular hours; Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office: 1-907-949-1320.

Assessment Projects

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF)/ADF&G and YDFDA

Crews began drifting snag nets to clear the drift zones on June 2. LYTF drift gillnet operations for Chinook and summer chum salmon began on June 5 at Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites and no salmon have been caught so far.

To reduce Chinook salmon mortality, set net sites will not be used this year at Big Eddy or Middle Mouth locations. Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to communities.

Data collected from Chinook and summer chum salmon will include ASL (Age, Sex, and Length). A few salmon of all species caught in LYTF will be sampled this year for other fish health research.

Pilot Station Sonar

Water levels at the sonar camp are still very high and are delaying installation.

Alaska-based projects that will begin operations later this season:

Anvik Sonar, Eagle Sonar, and Salcha and Chena River Tower/Sonar (ADF&G); Andrefsky Weir and Gisasa Weir (USFWS); and Henshaw Weir (TCC).

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used during salmon fishing closures to target nonsalmon. **Four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets must be 60 feet or less in length and operated as a set net.** Fishermen are reminded to set this gear near shore and in areas where nonsalmon species are abundant to avoid incidentally harvesting salmon. While any salmon caught in this gear may be kept, if it appears salmon are being targeted with this gear, it could be further restricted.

Additionally, other legal gear types to take nonsalmon during subsistence salmon fishing closures include dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, and spear. All Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive from these gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained if caught.

At the Board of Fisheries meeting in January, the area where hook and line gear may be used for subsistence in the summer (not while ice fishing) was extended above the Nulato River to the remainder of District 4 (including the Koyukuk River) and much of District 5 (see Figure 1 on page 4). By emergency order, Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from hook and line gear.

In Districts 3-6, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence and personal use during ice-free months, however nets must have a visible buoy, keg, or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net, plus a third in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length.

All gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address.

South Coastal District (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62 degrees North latitude which includes Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay):

Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore. Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon species and pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

District 1 and the North Coastal Area (from 62 degrees North latitude north to Point Romanof, including the Black River, and communities of Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore. Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon species and pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

District 2 (including Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, and Marshall):

Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set

near shore. Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon species and pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

District 3 (including Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, and Marshall):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore.

Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon species and pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

Innoko River (community of Shageluk):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

District 4 (including Grayling, Anvik, Mountain Village, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena, and Ruby):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Koyukuk River (including Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, and Bettles):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

District 5 (including Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Central, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

In Birch Creek, and the subsistence area of Beaver Creek below Moose Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 4 inches.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in portions of Subdistricts 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

District 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Kantishna River (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Old Minto Area:

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

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):

Subsistence fishing is currently with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Subdistrict 6-C Salmon (Personal use fishery 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):

By regulation, Personal Use fishing is open on a schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

6 p.m. Mondays to 12 p.m. (noon) Wednesdays

6 p.m. Fridays to 12 p.m. (noon) Sundays

Personal use fishing will be closed once salmon arrive in the area.

Personal Use Whitefish and Sucker Fishing

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (a portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Wood River upstream to the mouth of the Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank, which includes Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, and Delta Junction):

Fishing for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, subject to permit stipulations.

In the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A and 6-B), a subsistence permit is required for salmon fishing. A personal use salmon permit and valid sport fishing license are required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C. A personal use whitefish and sucker permit and valid sport fishing license are required in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.

A subsistence permit is required for northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats.

Subsistence harvest calendars and subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fairbanks office 907-459-7274 or online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/.

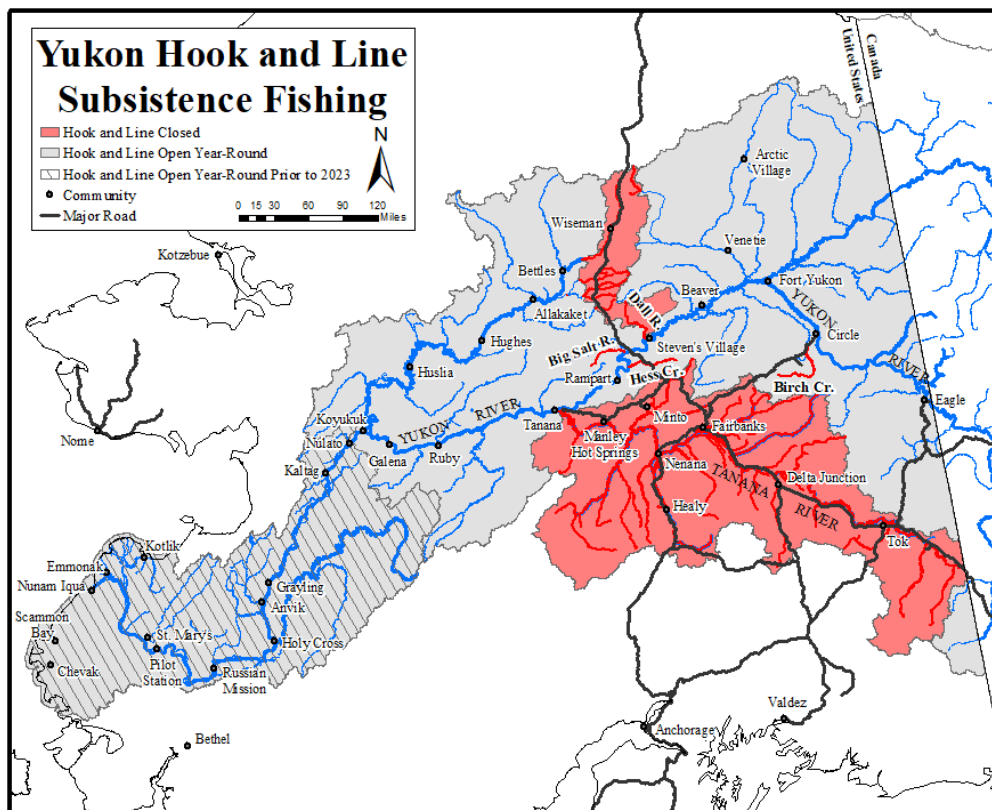


Figure 1. Areas where hook and line are legal as a subsistence fishing gear type in the Yukon Area (gray shaded areas). Closed areas for subsistence fishing with hook and line (red/darker shaded areas) include the Tanana River drainage, Big Salt River, Hess Creek, Dall River drainage, Birch Creek upstream of the Steese Highway bridge, Fish Creek drainage upstream from the mouth of Bonanza Creek, Bonanza Creek drainage, Kanuti River drainage upstream from a point 5 miles downstream of the state highway crossing, and Jim River drainage.

Federal Special Action

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have coordinated on this advisory announcement. As there is no salmon fishing allowed for Chinook and chum salmon, the Federal manager has not issued any Federal special actions at this time. The Emmonak USFWS office is not open. To reach the USFWS Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, call Holly Carroll at 907-351-3029.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G and the USFWS. Federal Special Actions will be posted on www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions.

ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/ and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG.

