



## Advisory Announcement

## CONTACT:

Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist  
907-949-1320 (Emmonak)

Released: June 7, 2023

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

### 2023 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #6 District 4 and Koyukuk River Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

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 and are being announced in Upper Yukon districts based on average travel time.

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 YR DFA teleconferences on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. (Alaska time). **Call in number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#**

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open 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.

### 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 must be operated as a set net.** Nets should be set near shore and fishermen are reminded to set this gear 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.

**Subdistrict 4-A Lower** (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, including Grayling and Anvik):

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. Monday, June 12, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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-foot 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, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

**Subdistrict 4-A Upper** (from Stink Creek upstream to the tip of Cone Point, including Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

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. Thursday, June 15, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

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

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

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman. Gillnet gear in the permit area may only be used from August 20 to June 30 and must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size.

**Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C** (including Galena and Ruby):

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

Gear types for nonsalmon species include dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear, and during subsistence salmon fishing closures Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive. At the Board of Fisheries meeting in January, the area where hook and line gear may be used for subsistence was extended above the Nulato River to the remainder of District 4 and the Koyukuk River (Figure 1 on Page 3).

In District 4 and the Koyukuk River, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence fishing during ice-free months, however submerged nets must have a visible buoy or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net, plus a third float in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length. As a general reminder, gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address.

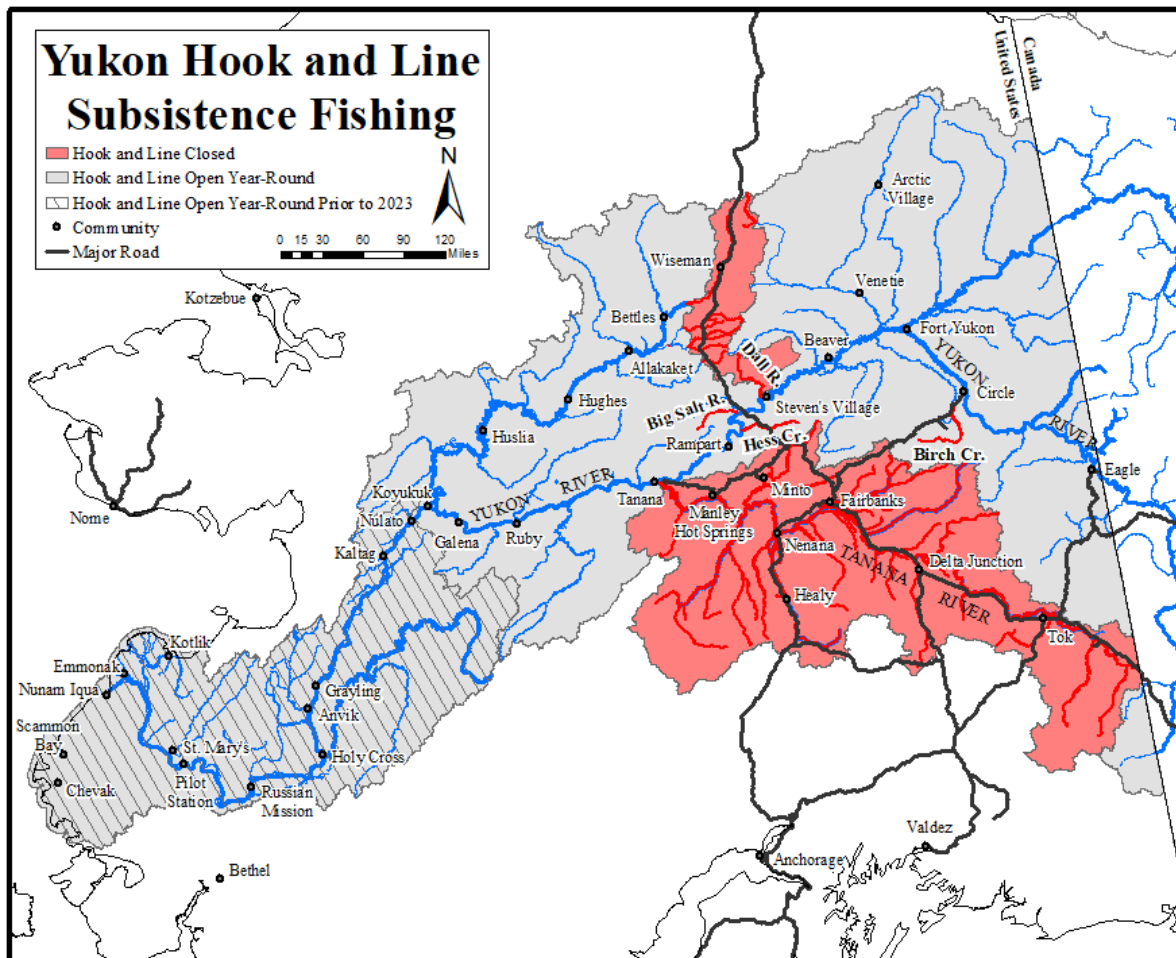


Figure 1. Areas where hook and line are legal as a subsistence fishing gear type in the Yukon Area (gray shaded areas). Closed areas for subsistence fishing with hook and line (red/darker shaded areas) include the Tanana River drainage, Big Salt River, Hess Creek, Dall River drainage, Birch Creek upstream 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](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions).

ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on [www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/](http://www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/) and shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG](https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG).

