



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist

Mike Parker, Assistant Area Management Biologist

1-907-949-1320 (Emmonak)

Toll free fishing schedule and counts: 1-866-479-7387

Released: June 10, 2025

2025 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #7

Summer Update # 1, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Operations for the summer season have commenced on the lower Yukon River. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) started utilizing snagging nets in late May and drift fishing began at the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites on June 2 and 3. Catch rates have been low to date, with most catches occurring at the Big Eddy site of the South Mouth. This is consistent with historical patterns typical for this time of year before salmon move to other river mouths. Installation of the Pilot Station sonar was completed in early June and the project began estimating salmon passage on June 4. Recent elevated water levels and significant amounts of debris temporarily affected operations and required the crew to reposition sonar pods to prevent equipment damage. The sonar and test fishery are currently operating at full capacity.

Currently there are insufficient data available to update inseason projections for Chinook or summer chum salmon run size or timing. The preseason Chinook salmon outlook is for a drainagewide run size of 72,000 fish with a range of 58,000 to 88,000 fish. The forecast for Canadian-origin Chinook salmon is for a run of 24,000 to 37,000 fish. Based on recent trends of fewer Canadian-origin Chinook salmon making it upriver, border passage is projected to be between 12,000 to 32,000 fish. These run sizes are well below average, and it is likely no escapement goals will be met this year for Chinook salmon in Alaska or Canada. The summer chum salmon forecast is for a run of 550,000 to 1,800,000 fish, however there is a lot of uncertainty about this year's run due to the low run sizes of the parent years. The run is anticipated to meet the drainagewide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,200,000 fish.

Salmon fishing closures have been announced up through District 4 to protect the low Chinook salmon run as it migrates upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. To further protect Chinook salmon, all gillnets (including 4-inch or smaller mesh gear) must be removed from the water during the bulk of the Chinook salmon run. Fishermen should standby for announcements in their area of closures of salmon and nonsalmon gear.

If the summer chum salmon run begins to enter the river in greater numbers and is projected to meet the drainagewide goal, openings with selective gear to target summer chum will be announced.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). Daily sonar passage estimates and LYTF test fish numbers are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG) and on the toll free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Saturdays and Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office can be reached at: 1-907-949-1320.

Weekly teleconferences hosted by YRDFA will take place Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. starting today. The call-in number is 1-800-315-6338, and the participation code is Yukon# (98566#).

Assessment Projects

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

Crews began drifting snag nets to clear the drift zones on May 24 and summer chum salmon drifts with 5.5 inch gillnets began on June 2 at Big Eddy and June 3 at Middle Mouth sites. The first chum salmon was caught on June 2. As of June 9, the cumulative CPUE is 19.22 which is below the historic cumulative CPUE of 31.38.

To reduce mortalities, LYTF will not test fish for Chinook salmon this year. Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to communities.

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

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 4. The first summer chum salmon was caught on June 4 and the first Chinook salmon was caught on June 6. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be 1,066 fish which is below the historical cumulative median of 6,167 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 809 fish, which is below the historical cumulative median of 4,883 fish. Early season estimates will change as data is pooled across multiple days. The sampling error of the estimates is high at this point in the season because passage and catches are low. The relative error will decrease as the season progresses.

All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery (PSSTF) will be sampled for age, sex, length and genetics. Additional biological sampling will be conducted for all Chinook salmon test fish mortalities as part of a broad collaborative effort to better understand salmon health and potential drivers of *en route* mortality and low productivity.

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

Anvik Sonar, Eagle Sonar, Salcha River Tower, and Chena River Tower/Sonar (ADF&G).

Current Subsistence Management Actions

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

Other gear types for nonsalmon species include: hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. However, **Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.**

Coastal District and District 1 (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

Currently, Chinook and chum 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 near shore.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 16 until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 3, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this period, but it is limited to non-lethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line,

longline, and fyke net. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 18 until 8 p.m. Saturday, July 5, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this period, but it is limited to non-lethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

District 3 (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

Chinook and chum 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 near shore.

Innoko River (including Shageluk):

Chinook and chum 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 near shore.

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. Wednesday, June 11, Chinook and chum 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 near shore.

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. Saturday, June 14, Chinook and chum 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 near shore.

Subdistricts 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.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 16, Chinook and chum 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 near shore.

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

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. Friday, June 20, Chinook and chum 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 near shore.

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 must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size and cannot be used from June 30 to August 20.

District 5 (from Illinois Creek to the U.S. Canada border 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 with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels 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/.

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. The USFWS Federal Inseason Manager has issued separate Fishery special actions with the same fishing restrictions and schedule in waters adjacent to Federal Land. 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.

