



## **Advisory Announcement**

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### **2025 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #3**

#### **Fall Update #1, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The fall chum season started in the Lower Yukon Area on July 16, and Lower Yukon assessment projects have transitioned to fall season counts. The 2025 fall chum salmon preseason projection, based on the relationship between summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon run sizes, is for a run size of less than 200,000 fish. If the run comes in as projected, it will not meet the drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000–600,000 fish. As outlined in the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, the projected run size must exceed 300,000 fish to allow subsistence salmon fishing. In addition, the run is not anticipated to be large enough to meet the Canadian treaty objectives for fall chum salmon, which are 70,000–104,000 fish in the mainstem Yukon River and 22,000–49,000 fish in the Fishing Branch River.

Coho salmon typically enter the Yukon River in mid-August with the bulk of the run passing the Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) between August 16 and 26. The primary parent year for coho salmon this year is from the lowest run on record, which occurred in 2021 with an estimated escapement of 46,000 fish. Therefore, the run is expected to be well below the average of 216,000 fish.

As both the fall chum and coho salmon runs are anticipated to be well below average, subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon will be restricted as they arrive in each area and nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch gillnets and manned fish wheels will be reduced to protect migrating salmon. Assessment projects will continue to monitor the run throughout the migration to determine if there is enough improvement to allow increased fishing opportunity.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). To subscribe to these updates, fill out the form on the following website:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.search>

Daily sonar passage estimates and LYTF test fish numbers are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG) and can be heard by calling toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

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

**Fall Assessment Projects**Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF)/ADF&G and YDFDA

Fall season operations began on July 16 using 6-inch mesh gear to target fall chum and coho salmon. As of July 21, the fall chum salmon cumulative CPUE was 10.91, which is below the average of 109.64 for this date.

Data collected from chum and coho salmon will include Age, Sex, and Length (ASL). A portion of the fall chum and coho salmon caught in LYTF will also be sampled for other fish health research. All retained salmon will be distributed to local communities.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project operated near Pilot Station transitioned to fall season counts on July 19. As of July 21, the cumulative passage is approximately 17,000 fall season chum salmon. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 43,000 fall season chum salmon for this date.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

This sonar project typically begins August 8 to count fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar / ADF&G

This sonar project typically begins August 8 to count fall chum salmon.

Eagle Sonar / ADF&G and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

This project will transition from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon in August.

Porcupine River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This project will transition from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon in August.

Fishing Branch River Weir/Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This project will begin counting fall chum salmon sometime in late August to early September.

**Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition**

Very few chum salmon have been caught and sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project since transitioning to fall season. The percentage of female chum salmon of the 13 fish sampled from July 16-20 was 29% which is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 46%. The average chum salmon length of 578 mm through July 20 is comparable to the 2001–2024 historical average.

**Summer Season Assessment**

The Chinook and summer chum salmon runs are complete in the lower river and management has transitioned to fall season in the lower river districts. Assuming late run timing, the midpoint of the Chinook salmon run is projected to reach the sonar project located near Eagle on July 29. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is below average but larger than what was observed in 2012 and 2022-2024 on this date. Current projections indicate that the border passage goal of 71,000 will not be met. Passage of Chinook salmon at all U.S. assessment projects are well below average and escapement goals are unlikely to be met.

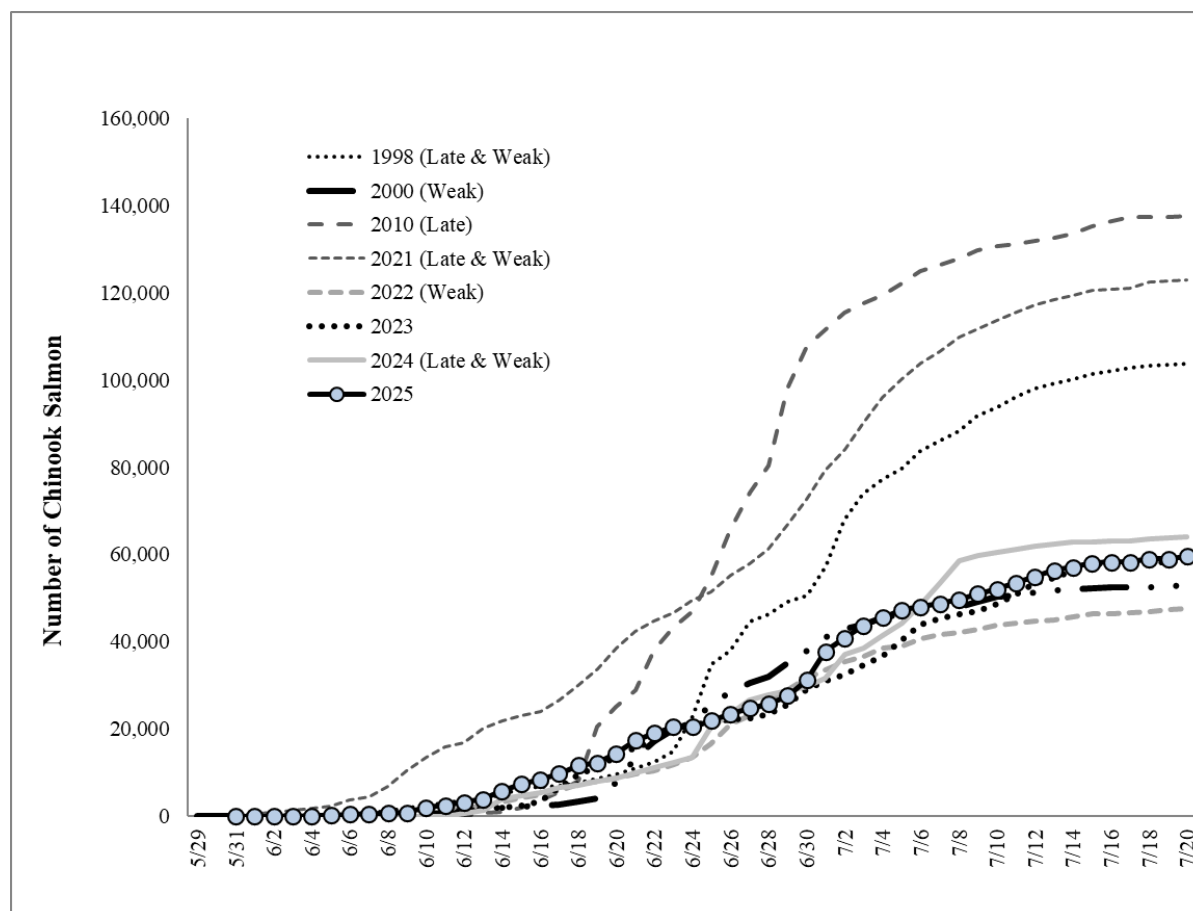
The preliminary estimate of the 2025 summer chum salmon run is for a run size of less than 400,000 fish, well below the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1.2 million fish and below the preseason forecast. Summer chum salmon total run size and escapement will be estimated later this year after final assessment project and subsistence harvest estimates are available. One possible explanation for the lower than expected run size is the poor return of age-4 fish from the 2021 brood year, the lowest run on record.

## Summer Assessment Projects

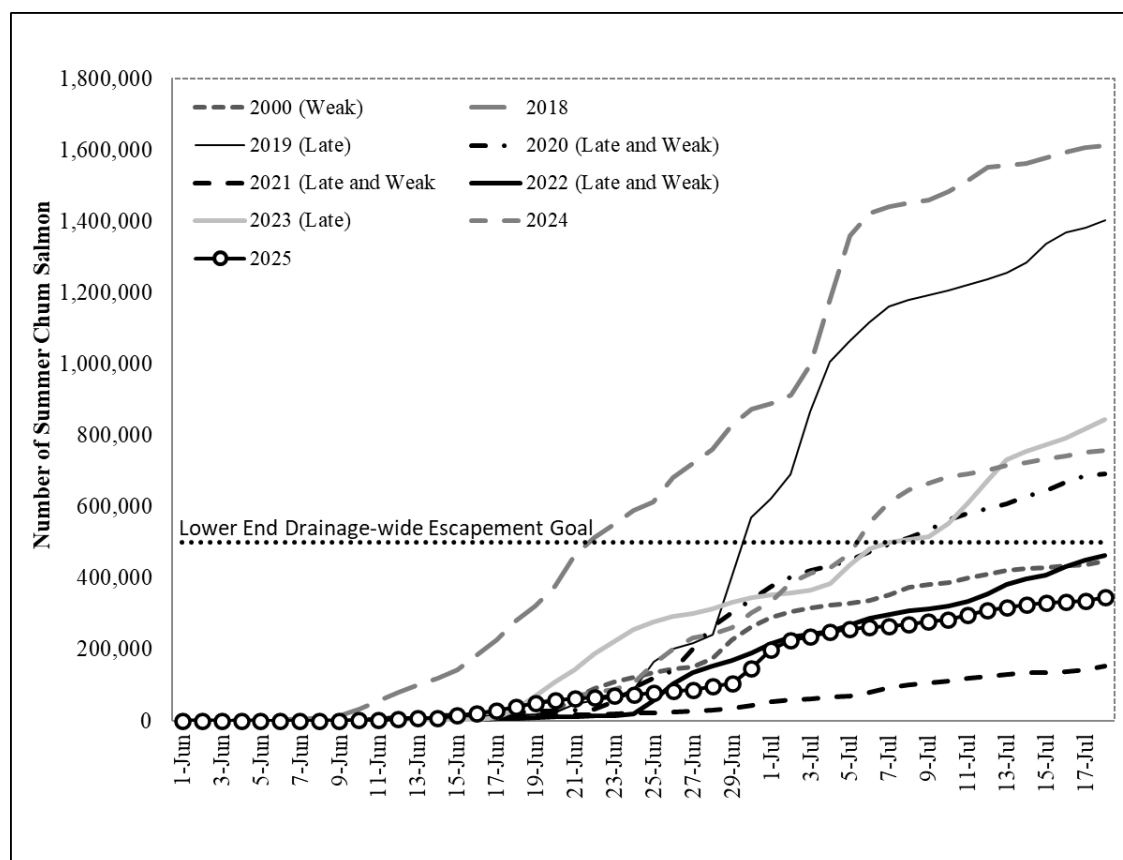
All assessment data is updated through July 21.

Summer chum salmon passage at Pilot Station sonar is estimated to be  $347,529 \pm 21,135$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical late year cumulative median of 845,988 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be  $59,599 \pm 8,342$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical late year cumulative average of 123,758 fish.

All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery are 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.



**Figure 1.** Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025.



**Figure 2.** Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025.

#### Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 16. Summer chum passage is estimated to be  $41,338 \pm 663$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 421,875 fish.

#### Chena Tower/sonar (ADF&G)

Visual counts from the Chena Tower began on June 30. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 555 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 3,475 fish.

#### Salcha Tower (ADF&G)

Counts began on July 3 after delays due to forest fires. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 966 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 4,444 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 470 fish which is above the historical cumulative average of 910 fish.

#### Eagle Sonar (ADF&G)

The Sonar project was fully operational as of July 1. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 7,011 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 18,973 fish.

### **Summer Age, Sex, and Length Composition**

The age composition of 305 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery through July 4 was 18% age-4, 66% age-5, 14% age-6 and 2% age-7 fish. The percentage of age-4 and age-5 fish were above average, while age-6 fish were below average. Chinook salmon within each age class

were smaller than the recent 10-year average with the exception of age 7 fish. The average length of 692 mm across all age classes is smaller than the recent 10-year average length of 733 mm.

The age composition of 419 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through July 15 was 31% age-4, which is lower than the historical average of 51% for this date. The age-5 component made up 65% of the samples, which is higher than the historical average of 46% for this date. Of the samples, 4% were age-6 fish, which is compared to the historical average of 2% for this date. The average length of 548 mm for the age-4 fish is below the historical average (2015–2024) of 556 mm. For age-5 the average length of 565 mm is below the historical average of 564 mm. Female summer chum salmon comprised 51% of the samples which is below the historical average (2015–2024) of 56%.

### Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) on the early group of Chinook salmon (Stratum 1, sampled from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery June 4 to June 19) indicated that  $50\% \pm 8\%$  (90% Credible Interval) of this group of fish were of Canadian-origin, which is similar to the historical Canadian proportions for this portion of the run of 0.53. Samples from Stratum 2 (June 20 to July 4) indicated that  $42\% \pm 7\%$  (90% Credible Interval) of this group were of Canadian-origin, which is the same as the historical proportion for the second strata of 0.42. Currently the projections for the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run indicate a run size point estimate near the preseason outlook of 24,000 to 37,000 fish (estimate = 23,862). With the Chinook run past Pilot Station nearly complete, there is evidence that the Canadian-origin run may be near the upper-end of the projection (Upper 80% CI – 27,882).

The second stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery (from June 23 through July 4) consisted of 97% summer chum salmon. Of those, 59% were bound for lower river, 37% were bound for the middle river, and 1% were bound for the Tanana River. The lower summer and Tanana stocks were below average while the middle river components were above average for this time period. The third stratum of chum genetics samples is on the way to the lab and include July 5 through July 18, look for the results in future ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe:

<https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>

### General subsistence gear reminders

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. **Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive. At the start of the fall season in each district, fall chum and coho salmon must also be released alive.**

Gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. Fish wheels must have first initial, last name, and address legibly inscribed on the side of the wheel facing mid-channel. In Districts 3-6, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence fishing during ice-free months, however submerged nets must have a visible buoy or floats attached to both ends of the net.

### Current Subsistence Management Actions

**Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, and 3 and the Innoko River** (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Emmonak, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross and Shageluk):

**Currently, subsistence fishing for chum, coho, and Chinook salmon is closed and gillnets are not allowed.**

**Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, July 24, fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels will reopen on a weekly fishing schedule from:**

**12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays, until further notice. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal 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, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive.

**Subdistricts 4-A Lower, 4-A Upper, and the Koyukuk River** (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to the tip of Cone Point and the Koyukuk River, including Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Wiseman, and Coldfoot):

**Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. 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.**

**Fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets will close at 12:00 p.m. noon, Sunday July 27.**

**Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, July 31 fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels will reopen on a weekly fishing schedule from:**

**12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays, until further notice.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal 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. During the fall season, starting at 12:01 am Wednesday, July 23, fall chum and coho salmon must also be released alive.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot. Gillnets in the permit area will not reopen until August 20.

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

**Until further notice, 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal 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.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal 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.

**Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C** (from Illinois Creek to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek including Tanana and Rampart):

**Until further notice, 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal 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.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in portions of Subdistricts 5-C and 5-D from the westernmost tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area).

**Subdistrict 5-D Lower** (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed. Effective 8 p.m. Saturday July 26 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.** Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-D Lower from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the mouth of Dall River.

**Subdistrict 5-D Middle** (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough, including the Porcupine River, other adjacent tributaries, and communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 30.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

**Subdistrict 5-D Upper** (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Subsistence 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.

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Sunday, August 3.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

**Subdistrict 6-A and Kantishna River** (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, and Manley):

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed. Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 22; 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

**In Lake Minchumina subsistence fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for nonsalmon species remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week.**

**Subdistrict 6-B and Old Minto Area** (from eastern edge of the Kantishna River upstream to the Wood River, including Minto and Nenana):

**All gillnet fishing is currently closed. Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 24 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.**

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

**In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, subsistence fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for nonsalmon species remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Note, a subsistence pike permit is required, see details below.**

**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 Delta Junction area, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Northway, and Nabesna):

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 near shore.

Fishermen are reminded that a subsistence permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A, 6-B, and Kantishna River drainage), northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage (including Minto Flats), and all species in the Upper Tanana Area. A subsistence salmon permit is not required in Lake Minchumina. 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/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/).

### **Personal Use Management Actions**

Personal Use salmon fishing in Subdistrict 6-C is closed, and periods are cancelled until further notice.

### **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):

**Personal Use whitefish and sucker fishing with gillnets and fish wheels follows the Subdistrict 6-C Personal Use salmon fishing schedule and is closed until further notice.** Fishing with other gear for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, subject to permit stipulations.

A reminder to personal use fishermen that a personal use salmon permit is required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C and a personal use whitefish and sucker permit is required to fish for these species in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. Both permits require a valid sport fishing license.

Subsistence harvest calendars and subsistence and personal use 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/](http://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](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).

