



Advisory Announcement

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Released: August 26, 2025

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #18

Fall Update #6, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2025 Yukon River fall chum salmon run is currently projected to be below 300,000 fish compared to a historical run size of 900,000 fish. The drainagewide escapement goal is 300,000–600,000 fall chum salmon. As outlined in the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, the projected run size must exceed 300,000 fish to provide subsistence salmon fishing opportunity. A run size below 300,000 fall chum salmon is not anticipated to be large enough to meet U.S. tributary goals or Canadian treaty objectives for fall chum salmon.

Genetic analysis applied to the fish passage estimates at the Yukon River mainstem sonar near Pilot Station indicate 237,000 fall chum salmon are in the river as of August 25, well below the historical median of 664,000 fish (Figure 1). The fall chum salmon run is past the historical median third-quarter point of August 22. Like the last several years, the Canadian components of the fall chum salmon run, based on genetics, are extremely poor and are expected to be well below the border passage objectives.

Despite coming off a poor primary parent year escapement (2021), the coho salmon run appears to be stronger than recent years in the lower Yukon River assessment projects. The coho salmon run size, based on early to median run timing, is projected to be 122,000–139,000 fish, compared to a historical average run index of 216,000 fish. A coho salmon run of this size can support subsistence harvest, therefore, coho salmon retention is allowed in all currently legal gear types.

Currently, subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon is closed but coho salmon retention is allowed in all legal subsistence gear types. Whitefish and other nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels is still on a reduced schedule to protect migrating fall chum salmon. Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon with 6-inch gillnets is open in designated, nonsalmon areas off the mainstem river only. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #10-#15 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated whitefish harvest areas.

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.

Fall Assessment Projects

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (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 August 24, the fall chum salmon cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 622.90, which is below the average of 1,156.81 for this date. The run is past the three-quarter point based on median run timing. As of August 24, the coho salmon cumulative CPUE was 177.12, which is below the historical median of 256.93 for that date. The three-quarter point based on median run timing occurs on August 27 for coho salmon at this project.

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 on July 19. As of August 25, the cumulative passage is approximately 303,000 chum salmon in the fall season. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 561,000 chum salmon in the fall season for this date. The three-quarter point based on median run timing occurs on August 20 for chum salmon in the fall season at this project. NOTE: these values include a mixture of summer and fall chum salmon, once genetics are applied, they will effectively reduce the mainstem sonar estimated number of fall chum salmon in the river.

The coho salmon cumulative passage as of August 25 is approximately 80,000 fish (Figure 2), which is below the median passage of 123,000 fish for this date. The three-quarter point based on median run timing occurs August 31 for coho salmon.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar (USFWS)

The sonar project began operations on August 7. As of August 25, the cumulative passage was 3,796 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 18,000 fish for this date. The runs first-quarter point based on median passage is September 5 at this project. The Teedriinjik escapement goal is 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project began operations on August 6. As of August 25, the cumulative passage was 1,280 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 4,000 fish for this date.

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

This project will transition from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon in late August or early September.

Porcupine River Sonar (Yukon Territory Canada / DFO)

This project transitioned from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon on August 15. As of August 24, the cumulative passage was 319 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 1,197 fish for this date.

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

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

Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 299 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 16 through August 24, consisted of 77% age-4 and 19% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 68% age-4 and 30% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon based on 389 fish sampled from July 16–August 24, was 59% which is above the 2001–2024 historical average of 57%. The chum salmon average length was 574 mm is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 584 mm through August 24. The

age composition of 107 coho salmon sampled from July 16 through August 24, consisted of 38% age-3 and 59% age-4 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 17% age-3 and 76% age-4. The percentage of female coho salmon based on 155 fish sampled through August 24 was 47% which is near the 2001–2024 historical average of 45%. The average length of 568 mm is above the 2001–2024 historical average of 562 mm through August 24.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis on chum salmon that passed the mainstem sonar from July 31–August 15 indicated approximately 14% were summer chum and 86% were fall chum salmon. Overall, the fall chum salmon stocks sampled from June 6–August 15, consist of 53% Border/US (Teedriinjik, Sheenjek, and Draanjik), 15% Canadian, and 32% Tanana Fall. For fall chum salmon this represents 85% U.S.-origin and 15% Canada-origin stocks. Project data and genetic results are available in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>.

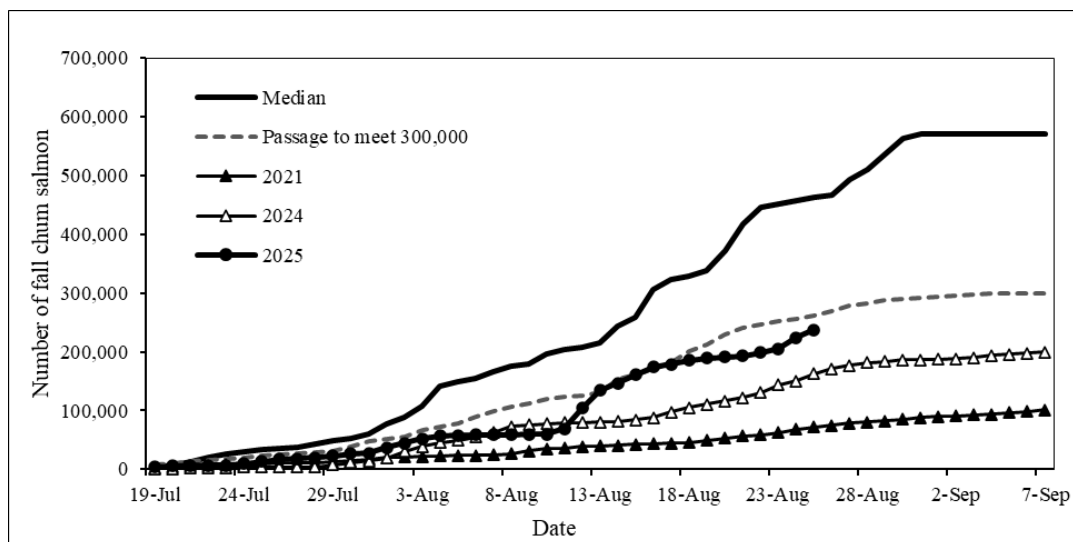


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon (as determined using genetic mixed stock analysis) at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2025 compared to the historical median and select years. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal.

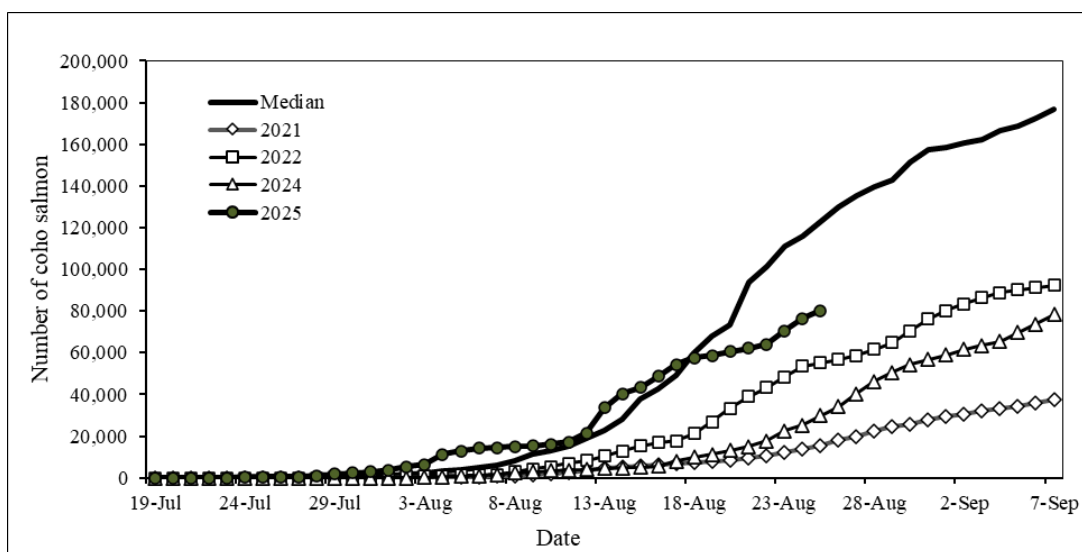


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar (Pilot Station), including estimates of downstream harvests, in 2025 compared to historical median and select recent years.

Summer Assessment Projects

Eagle Sonar (ADF&G and DFO)

Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 23,668 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 48,441 fish. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is well below average, but larger than what was observed in 2022 – 2023 and very similar to 2024 on this date. Transition to counting fall chum salmon should occur soon, the latest transition occurred in 2021 on September 1.

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. 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 midchannel. 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 to 5, and the Innoko, Koyukuk, and Porcupine rivers (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof, including the Black River, upstream to the U.S./Canada border, including 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, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Wiseman, Coldfoot, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon and coho salmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 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.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels may be used from **noon Thursdays, through 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. Drift gillnets are not allowed.

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.

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) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

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

Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, Old Minto Area and the Kantishna River (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

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

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels may be used from **noon Thursdays, through 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.

In Lake Minchumina and 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):

Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. **Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels may be used 24 hours a day, seven days per week, 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 with selective gear types, including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net, remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive.

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/.

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing with set gillnets is open in rivers, sloughs, and lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them, until further notice. Set gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and 60-feet or shorter in length. This is to provide an opportunity to harvest whitefish and other nonsalmon species. Gillnets cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #10-#15 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

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/.

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.

