



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Matt Olson, Area Management Biologist
Bonnie Borba, Fall Season Research Biologist
907-459-7274
Toll free fishing schedule and counts: 1-866-479-7387

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #29 Fall Update #14, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

This will be the final weekly update for the 2025 salmon season. The preliminary 2025 Yukon River fall chum salmon run size is 276,000 fish compared to a historical run size of 900,000 fish (Figure 1). The drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000–600,000 fall chum salmon will not be met. Upper Yukon assessment projects are well below average for fall chum salmon, indicating Canadian treaty obligations and tributary escapement goals will not be met. The coho salmon run size based on early run timing, is projected to be 108,000 fish, compared to a historical average run index of 216,000 fish (Figure 2). Due to poor salmon runs, nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch gillnets and manned fish wheels was reduced to protect migration salmon.

As the fall chum and coho salmon migrations are nearing completion, subsistence fishing restrictions are being removed in most areas based on fall chum salmon travel time. As the drainagewide and tributary escapement goals for fall chum salmon are not projected to be met, the Koyukuk, Teedriinjik, Porcupine, Kantishna, and Nenana River drainages will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing through December to protect active spawning areas used by fall chum salmon. Upper Yukon fisheries assessment projects will be ongoing into October, followed by foot, boat, and aerial salmon enumeration surveys through early December. Please see the Current Subsistence Management Actions section below for the subsistence fishing schedule in your area.

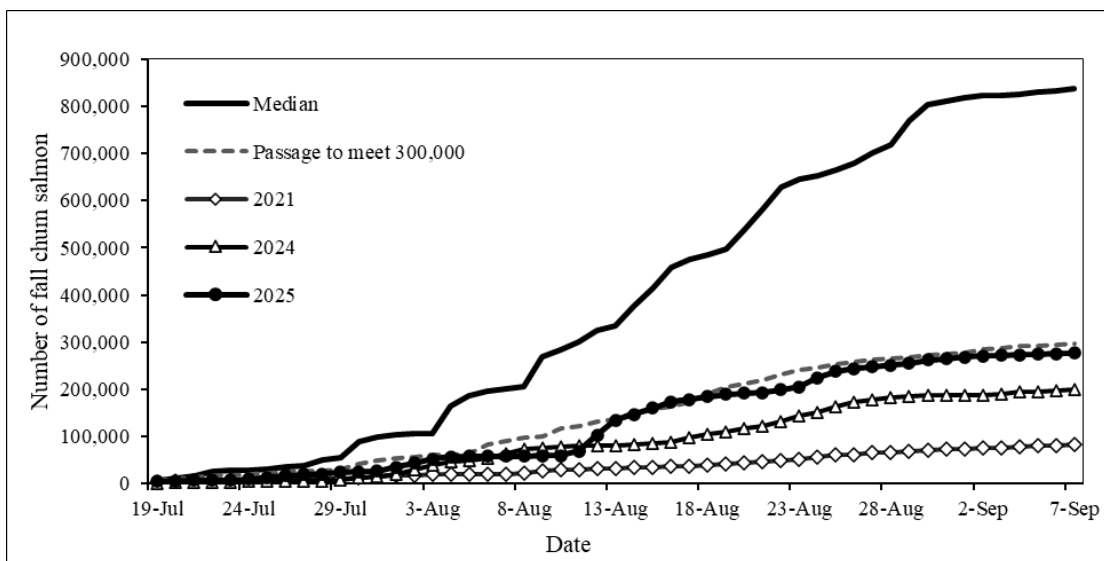


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon (as determined using genetic mixed stock analysis) at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2025, and includes estimates of downstream harvests,

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.

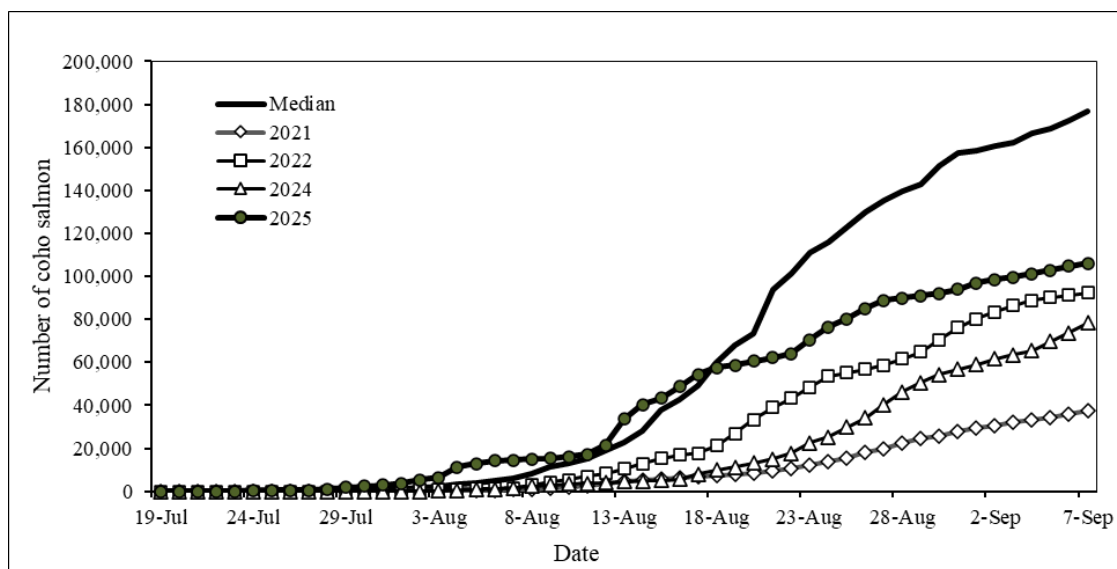


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar (Pilot Station), including estimates of downstream harvests, in 2025 compared to historical median and select recent years.

Fall Assessment Projects

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (ADF&G and YDFDA)

This project concluded on September 10 with a fall chum salmon cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 872.42, which is below the median of 1,258.96. Fall chum salmon run timing this year was 8 days late compared to median. The coho salmon cumulative CPUE was 257.53, which is below the historical median of 343.42 for that date. Coho salmon run timing this year was 2 days early compared to median.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

This project concluded on September 7. The cumulative passage estimate was 343,000 chum salmon in the fall season and contained approximately 276,000 fall chum salmon as determined by genetics. Run timing for all chum salmon in the fall season was 3 days late while the genetic fall chum salmon was average compared to median. The coho salmon cumulative passage as of September 7 is approximately 106,000 fish, which is below the median passage of 177,000 fish. The run timing for coho salmon was 5 days earlier than median.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar (USFWS)

This project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage of fall chum salmon, which includes a preliminary expansion after sonar operations ceased on September 26 through October 9 is 65,800 fish. This estimate is below the median passage of 175,000 fall chum salmon. The Teedriinjik escapement goal range of 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon was not achieved. Run timing was three days late compared to the median date of September 13.

Sheenjek River Sonar (ADF&G)

This project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage of fall chum salmon, which includes a preliminary expansion after sonar operations ceased on September 25 through October 9 is 16,800 fish. This estimate is considered a minimum due to reduced counts during highwater, however as expected the run size is well below the median passage of 66,000 fall chum salmon. Run timing was two days late compared to the median date of September 13.

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

This project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage estimate of fall chum salmon, through October 18, (including a preliminary expansion after sonar operations ceased on October 6), is 19,600 fish. which is below the median of 153,000 fish for this date (Figure 3). This estimate is the second lowest on record (1980–2024) and though within the preseason outlook, it is well below what would provide for the interim management escapement goal of 70,000–104,000 fall chum salmon. Run timing was three days early, compared to the median date of September 23.

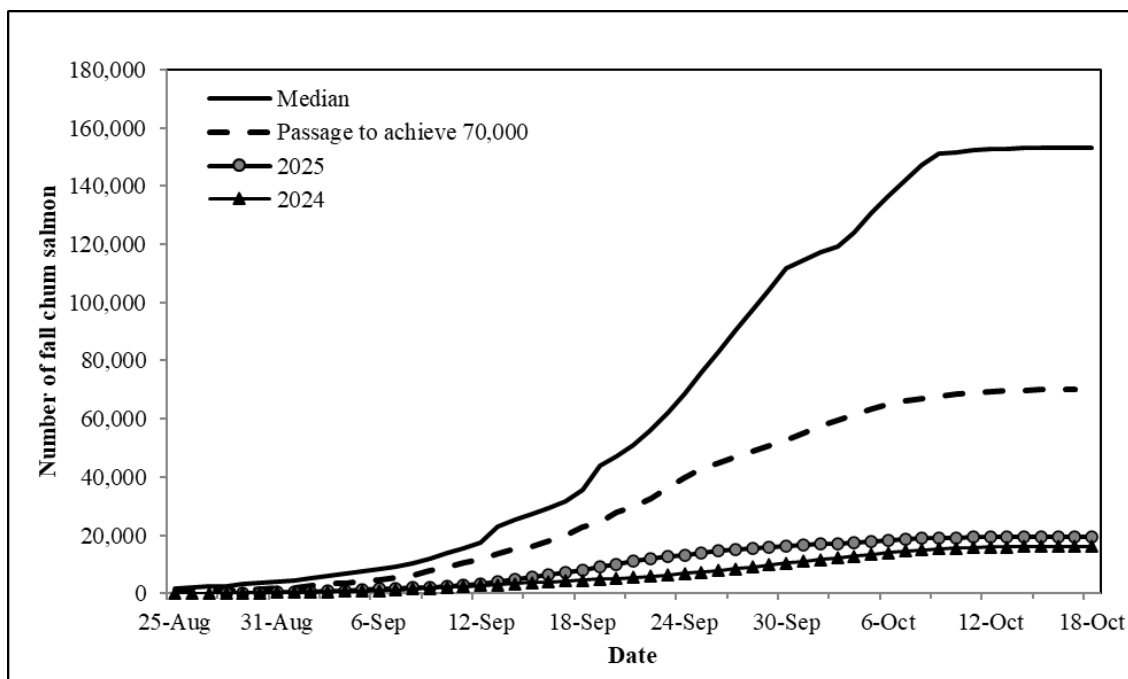


Figure 3. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar assessment project near Eagle. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the Interim Management Escapement Goal.

Porcupine River Sonar (Yukon Territory Canada / DFO)

This project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage estimate of fall chum salmon, through October 12 is 11,849 fish. which is below the median of 25,000 fish for this date. Run timing was 5 days later than average for this site.

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

This project began counting fall chum salmon on September 4. As of October 19, the cumulative passage was 7,778 fall chum salmon, which is below the median passage of 23,600 fish. The interim management escapement goal of 22,000–49,000 fall chum salmon was not achieved.

Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 458 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 16 through September 10, consisted of 78% age-4 and 17% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 69% age-4 and 28% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon based on 470 fish sampled from July 16–September 10, was 59% which is near the 2001–2024 historical average of 58%. The chum salmon average length was 574 mm is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 583 mm through September 10.

The age composition of 178 coho salmon sampled from July 16 through September 10, consisted of 40% age-3 and 59% age-4 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 16% age-3 and 76% age-4. The percentage of female coho salmon based on 193 fish sampled through September 10 was 47% which is near the 2001–2024 historical average of 46%. The average length of 567 mm is above the 2001–2024 historical average of 561 mm through September 10.

Stock Identification

The preliminary genetic mixed stock analysis from July 19 through September 7 indicates the fall chum salmon run consisted of 46% Tanana Fall, 41% Border/US, and 12% Canada. The 2025 level of mainstem Yukon River Canadian contribution of 10% is well below the 2004–2024 historical average of 26%, as well as below the 2020–2024 average of 13%.

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 passage estimates are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG), ADF&G webpage www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts, and can be heard inseason by calling toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

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, 2, 3, 4, Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, 5-C, and the Innoko and Koyukuk rivers (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof, including 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, Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Wiseman, Coldfoot, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, and Rampart):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal salmon gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet and will no longer be restricted to being operated as a set net.

Subdistrict 5-D and the Porcupine River (including the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing for 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, sockeye, and coho 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. 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 Announcement #14 for the named list, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated whitefish harvest areas.** 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.

Effective at the dates and times listed below, subsistence fishing for all species will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

Effective **noon Thursday, October 30 in Subdistrict 5-D** (Stevens Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Central, Circle, and Eagle).

Closed area: The Koyukuk, Porcupine, and Teedriinjik drainages will remain closed to subsistence fall chum salmon fishing until 11:59 p.m. on December 31. In these areas, effective **noon Thursday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon and coho salmon will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (60 feet or shorter) and manned fish wheels.

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

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in Subdistrict 5-C, from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek (Dalton Highway bridge area), 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, 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 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. 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. 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 Announcement #15 for the named list, GPS coordinates, and map of these designated whitefish harvest areas.** Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Effective **noon Thursday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for all species will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal salmon gear. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

Closed area: The Kantishna and Nenana river drainages, excluding Lake Minchumina, will remain closed to subsistence fall chum salmon fishing until 11:59 p.m. on December 31. In these areas, effective **noon Thursday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon and coho salmon will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (60 feet or shorter) and manned fish wheels.

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. 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/.

A reminder to fishermen 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.

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 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.

Effective **noon Thursday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for all species will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

Personal Use Management Actions

Personal Use Salmon Fishing:

Subdistrict 6-C (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):

Personal use salmon fishing is closed.

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 fishwheels is closed. 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.

Effective **8:00 a.m. Thursday, October 30**, personal use whitefish and sucker fishing will open with 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets limited to 60 feet or shorter.

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 schedule and dates that actions will be lifted. Coho salmon fishing

remains limited to federally qualified subsistence users until actions are lifted in Federal public waters. 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.

