



Advisory Announcement

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #2

Board of Fisheries Actions: Yukon Area Regulatory Changes

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) met several times during the regulatory cycle in 2025/2026 to consider escapement goals, fishery stock status and proposals for the Yukon area.

At the BOF work session on October 28-29, 2025, escapement goals and stock status listings were considered. No changes were made to Yukon Area escapement goals¹. Stock of concern designations for Chinook and fall chum salmon were updated based on the most recent 5 years of information². Chinook salmon were reclassified from a stock of yield concern listing to a stock of management concern. Fall chum salmon were listed as a stock of management concern. These changes to stock of concern designations prompted the drafting of Action Plans for Yukon Chinook and fall chum salmon, which were presented to the BOF^{3,4} at the Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues meeting on March 17-21, 2026.

During the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish meeting on November 18-24, 2025, three proposals were considered for the Yukon Area.

YUKON AREA SUBSISTENCE PROPOSALS

Proposal 15 was adopted with substitute language found in RC 43 and further verbal amendments and edits during review by Department of Law. The fall chum salmon management plan 5 AAC 01.249 was amended with the addition of a new paragraph (7). When fall chum salmon are designated as a stock of management concern, the management plan will be implemented from July 13 to December 31. This is a change of 3 days earlier from July 16. Additionally, the term “Traditional Knowledge” was added to the preamble of the management plan, that identifies this as a metric to consider when implementing aspects found within the plan.

Proposal 16 sought to close the mainstem Yukon River to the use of 4-inch or less mesh gillnets for fall chum salmon conservation. This proposal did not pass. The department has Emergency Order authority to close gear during times of conservation.

¹ RC 7: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Escapement Goal Memo

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2025-2026/ws/2025_ayk-eg-memo.pdf

² RC 8: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Stock of Concern Memo

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2025-2026/ws/ayk-soc-memo.pdf>

³ RC4: Draft Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2026

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2025-2026/state/draft-yukon-fall-chum-ap.pdf>

⁴ RC5: Draft Yukon River King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2026

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2025-2026/state/draft-yukon-king-ap.pdf>

Proposal 17 sought to allow the use of 6-inch or less mesh gillnets during times of salmon conservation, as follows: In Hamilton Slough, Anen’eq River (Unuk River), and Ingricuar River, set gillnets of six inch or smaller mesh may be used from September 1 to September 30; gillnets must be 60 feet or less in length and at least 300 feet upstream from the mouth. This proposal did not pass. The department has Emergency Order authority to open fishing opportunity with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets in the suggested waters.

YUKON AREA STOCK OF CONCERN ACTION PLANS

As an outcome of the Supplemental Proposals meeting held on May 1, 2026, new regulations for the action plans are in the process of being finalized later this summer after review from Department of Law and approval by the Legislation, Regulations, and Legislative Research Section.

Chinook Salmon: “Fish-friendly” fish wheel construction requirements, which are currently in place under commercial regulations (5 AAC 05.362(j)(1) – (2)), were added while the stock is listed as a stock of management concern. The new rule requires that fish wheel basket sides and bottoms be made of a soft mesh material similar to, or made out of, seine twine and that fish wheels have an adjustable or fixed slide or chute with a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined sides that return Chinook salmon immediately back to the water.

The Chinook salmon Action Plan also specifies for the Yukon River Chinook salmon stock to be changed from a stock of management concern to a stock of yield concern or delisted entirely, the majority of the lower bounds of the established escapement goal ranges must be met or exceeded in 5 consecutive years and are expected to be met in future years.

Fall Chum Salmon: “Fish-friendly” fish wheel construction requirements, which are currently in place under commercial regulations (5 AAC 05.362(j)(1) – (2)), were added while the stock is listed as a stock of management concern. The new rule requires that fish wheel basket sides and bottoms be made of a soft mesh material similar to, or made out of, seine twine and that fish wheels have an adjustable or fixed slide or chute with a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined sides that return fall chum salmon immediately back to the water.

The fall chum salmon Action Plan also specifies that in order for the Yukon River fall chum salmon stock to be changed from a stock of management concern to a stock of yield concern or delisted entirely, the lower bound of the drainagewide escapement goal (300,000-600,000 fall chum salmon) must be met or exceeded in 5 consecutive years and is expected to be met in future years.

STATEWIDE FINFISH PROPOSALS

Proposal 162 sought to prohibit the use of commercial transport services in all subsistence fisheries. This proposal did not pass.

Proposal 175 sought to reduce the maximum allowable dip net mesh size from 4.5 inches to 3.5 inches for subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries statewide. Additionally, this sought to prohibit the use of a rope attached to the handle which is used to extend the reach of a dip net or stabilize it in the water. This proposal did not pass.



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