



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement # 17 **Summer Update # 4, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery** Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Inseason passage estimates of Chinook salmon are below the historic average and it is unlikely that any escapement goals will be met in Alaska or Canada. The summer chum salmon run also appears to be below average, and it is too soon to determine if the drainagewide escapement goal will be met.

Salmon fishing closures have been announced in all fishing districts to protect the low Chinook salmon run as it migrates upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. Additionally, closures of all gillnets (including 4-inch or less mesh) are being implemented to further protect Chinook salmon. To date, these closures have been announced up through Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. Fishermen should standby for announcements in their area of closures of salmon and nonsalmon gear.

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

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and can be reached at: 1-907-949-1320 during normal business hours.

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

Assessment Projects

All assessment data is updated through June 22.

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

Summer chum salmon drifts with 5.5-inch mesh gillnets began on June 3 at both the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth fishing sites. The first chum salmon was caught on June 5 at Middle Mouth. As of June 22, the cumulative CPUE is 367.53 which is below the historic cumulative CPUE of 983.11.

To reduce mortalities, LYTF will continue to not target Chinook salmon. Salmon will be released alive from the test nets if possible and any with injuries or mortalities will be distributed within nearby communities. Summer chum salmon will be sampled for ASL (Age, Sex, and Length).

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar and test fishing operations were fully operational on June 7. As of June 22, summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be 103,260 ± 13,777 fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical

all year cumulative median of 380,186 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $40,754 \pm 9,903$ fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative average of 69,494 fish.

All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery (PSSTF) will be sampled for ASL and genetics. There will be no inseason analysis of genetics for Chinook and all estimates of Canadian origin at Pilot are based on historical average proportions. Genetic tissues will be analyzed post season. Additional biological sampling will be conducted on Chinook salmon mortalities as part of a broad collaborative effort to better understand salmon health and potential drivers of *en route* mortality and low productivity.

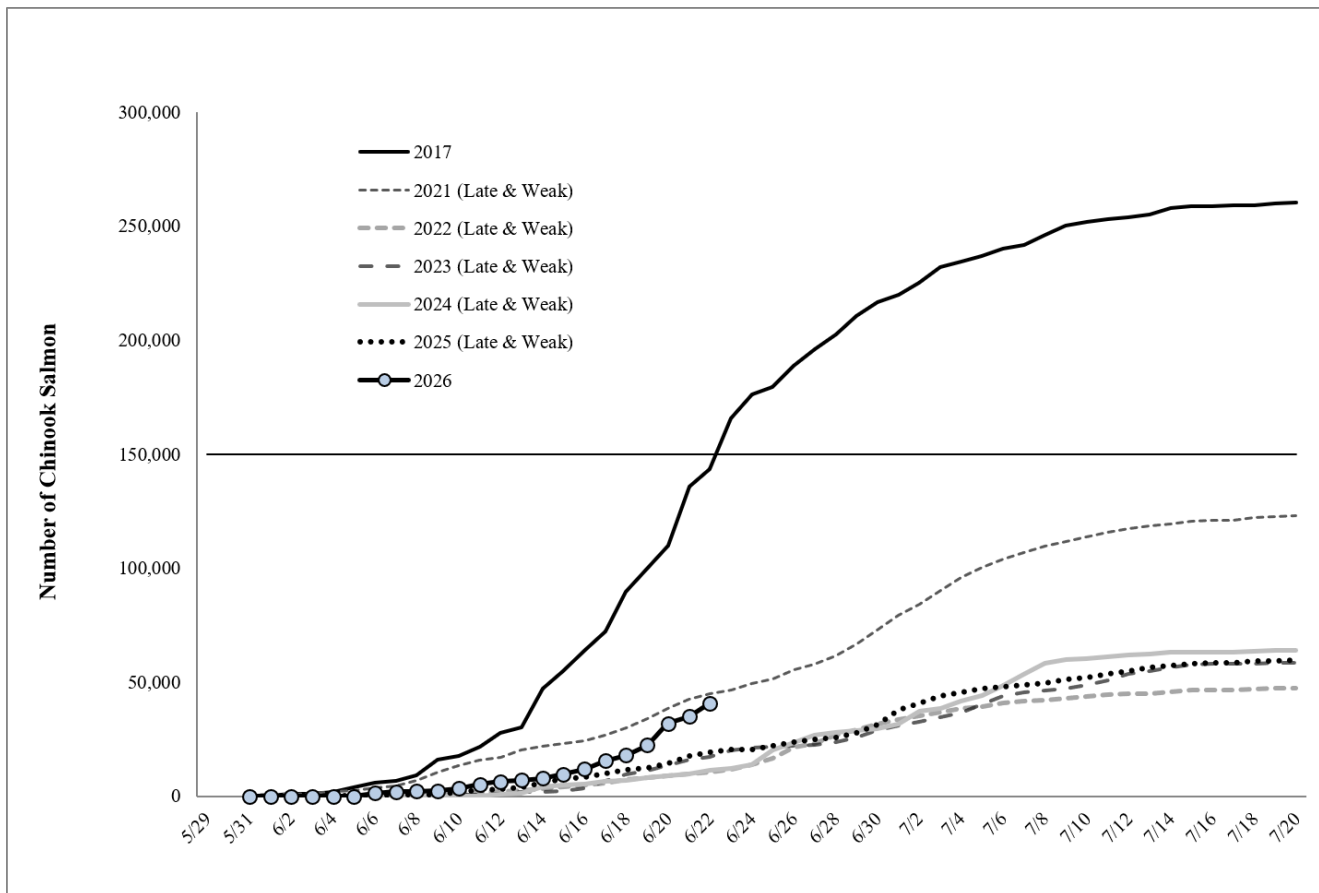


Figure 1. The 2026 Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to the recent five years of late and poor run sizes. Total run sizes below 150,000 (horizontal line) typically fail to achieve escapement goals in Alaska or Canada. Also shown is 2017 – the most recent year when there was a harvestable surplus of Canadian-origin Chinook in Alaska and border passage exceeded new international agreement of 71,000.

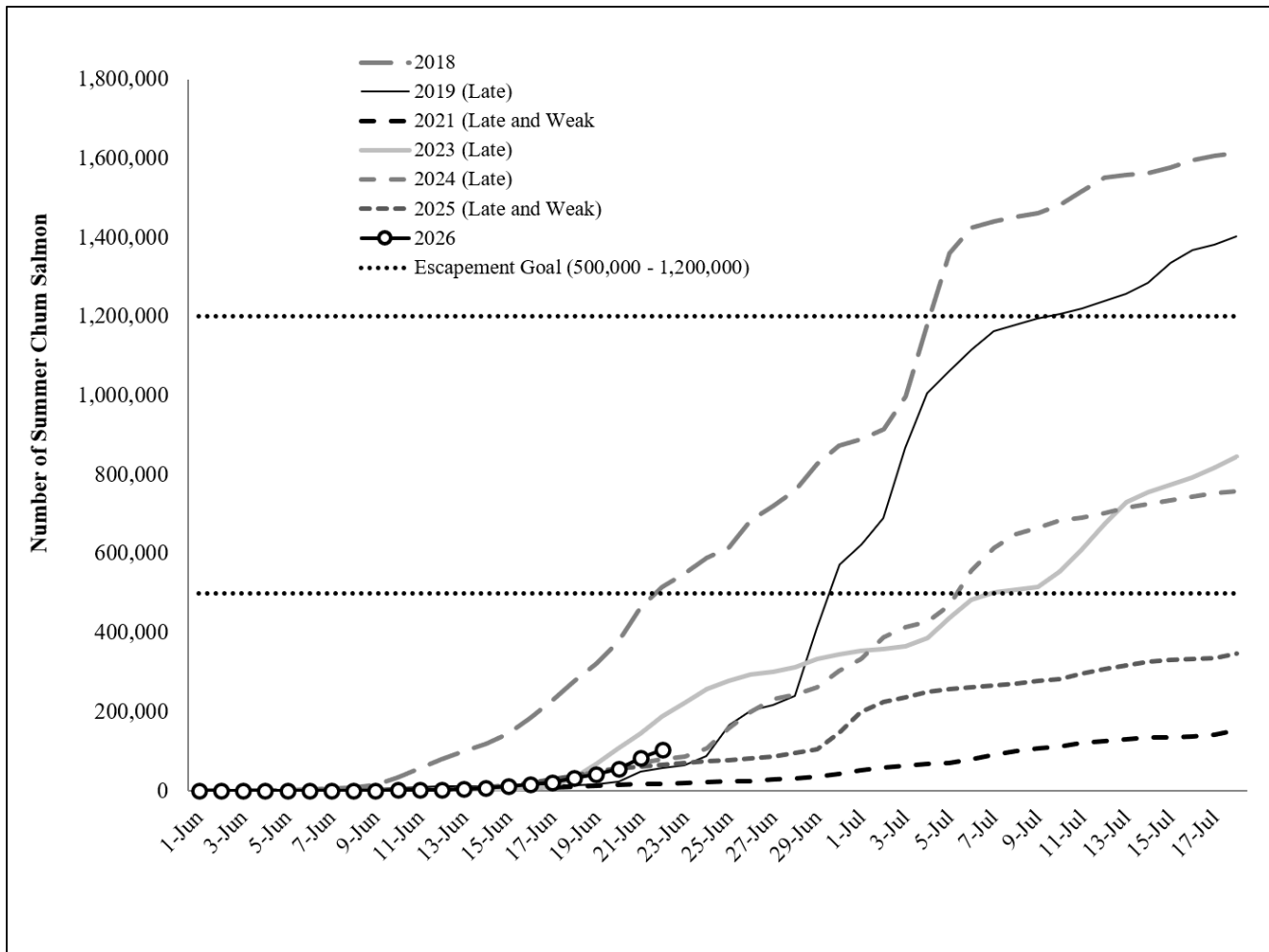


Figure 2. 2026 Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar.

Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 16. Summer chum passage is estimated to be 947 ± 90 fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 2,010 fish.

Chinook Radio Telemetry (ADF&G)

2026 is the start of the second phase of a multi-year effort to evaluate concerns for Chinook *en route* mortality and spawning distribution within Canada. This is the first year of an up to three-year effort to capture and tag up to 250 Chinook salmon each season near Rampart Rapids. Tagged fish will be tracked throughout the upper Yukon in Alaska and Canada to evaluate en-route mortality and spawning distribution. Crew is on site setting up camp and hope to start tagging in the next couple days. Each fish will be tagged with both an internal radio telemetry tag and an external spaghetti tag. **If you encounter a tagged fish this season and are successful at documenting the tag number, please call 1-877-467-2104 to report information about when and where the fish was observed.** As a thank you for voluntarily reporting the tag number and associated information, you will be automatically entered into the ADF&G salmon tag lottery at the ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Emmonak. Please contact Josh Clark at 907-267-2217 or Fred West at 907-267-2237 with any questions.

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

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

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Fishing with all gillnets will close in each area for a two-and-a-half-week period (18 days). During these dates when all gillnets must be removed from the water, fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, 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 summer 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):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets may not be used until 8 p.m. Friday, July 3.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets may not be used until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 5.

District 3 (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

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

Innoko River (including Shageluk):

Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is open with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 23 until 8 p.m. Friday, July 10, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, including Grayling and Anvik):

Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is open with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 23 until 8 p.m. Friday, July 10, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek to the tip of Cone Point, including Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is open with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27 until 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27 until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

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

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 29 until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

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

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 29 until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

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 8 p.m. Monday, June 29 to August 20.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C (including Tanana and Rampart):

Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species 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 in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C from the westernmost tip of Garnet Island upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek (Dalton Highway bridge area).

Subdistricts 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):

Subsistence fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, fishing for salmon is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels 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 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, all other adjacent tributaries, and the communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

Subsistence fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 26, fishing for salmon is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels 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 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, June 28, fishing for salmon is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels 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 permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

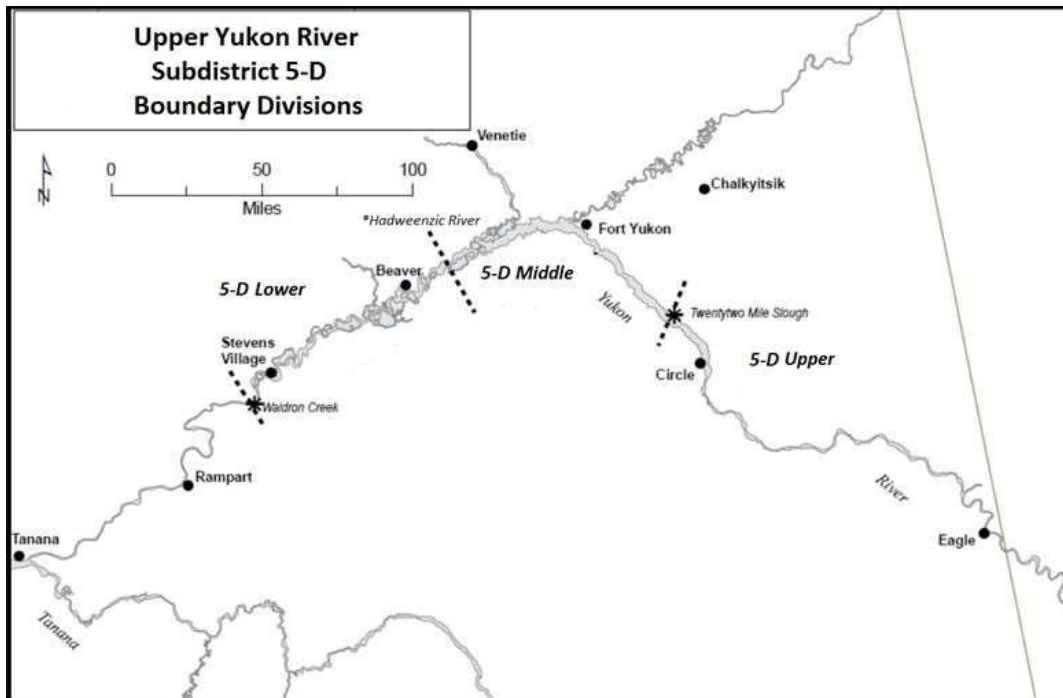


Figure 1. Subdistrict 5-D boundary divisions.

Subdistrict 6-A and the 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):

Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

In Lake Minchumina, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

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

Subsistence fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, subsistence fishing is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and 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):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 29, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets with larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species 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.

Personal Use Management Actions

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 open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels for 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.

Effective 12 p.m. (noon) Sunday, June 28, Personal Use salmon fishing will close 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 will close at 12 p.m. (noon) Sunday, June 28 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.

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. For additional information concerning Yukon River Federal Special Actions contact the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; holly_carroll@fws.gov, (907) 351-3029 or Assistant Manager, Keith Herron; keith_herron@fws.gov, (907) 334-5391.



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.

