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Advisory Announcement

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #20
Coastal District, Districts 1-3, and Innoko River selective gear openings
Emergency Order Number 3-S-SY-21-26
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of June 29, over 330,000 summer chum salmon are estimated to have passed Pilot Station sonar and the normal midpoint of the run is June 29. Similar to recent years, the run timing appears to be later than average. The 2026 summer chum salmon run appears to be tracking above the preseason forecast and within the drainagewide escapement goal range (500,000 to 1.2 million fish). Recent inseason run size projections suggest the run will exceed 650,000 fish and provide a surplus for subsistence harvest. Fishing for summer chum salmon will open with selective gear types. The efficiency of the gear makes it unlikely that the harvest would reduce the run below the drainagewide escapement goal.

The Chinook salmon run remains below average and is not expected to meet any escapement goals. The 2026 Chinook salmon run is past the historical midpoint for both normal (June 25) and late timing (June 29) and tracking similar to the below average runs in 2010 and 2021. Current projections indicate the Canadian-Origin Chinook salmon run will be below the 71,000 border passage goal and could be as small as runs observed in recent years. Conservative management actions are still necessary to reduce any incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Announced closures of 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets remain in place, and all Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear (dip nets, beach seines, hook and line) while fishing for summer chum salmon.

The Board of Fisheries officially designated fall chum salmon as a Stock of Management Concern at its most recent meeting and changed the start of the fall season management season to begin three days earlier than normal. The fall chum salmon run is forecast to be below average, and retention of chum salmon will end when fall season management begins in each district.

Fishermen are reminded to practice respectful and safe fish handling techniques and ensure any Chinook salmon caught in selective or nonsalmon gear types are released alive so they may continue upriver to their spawning grounds. If it appears that Chinook salmon are being targeted while fishing for summer chum with selective gear types, fishing will be further restricted.

Subsistence Management Actions

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open with 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.

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 gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Friday, July 3, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-foot or less in length.

Effective 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 30 until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 12 summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained in dip net, beach seine, manned fish wheels and hook and line gear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, July 5, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-foot or less in length.

Effective 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 30 until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 15 summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained in dip net, beach seine, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

District 3 (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-foot or less in length.

Effective 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 30 until 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 17 summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained in dip net, beach seine, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Innoko River (including Shageluk):

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Friday, July 10, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-foot or less in length.

Effective 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 30 until 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 17 summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained in dip net, beach seine, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Fish wheels are legal gear to use for subsistence in the entire Yukon Area. If fish wheels are used during times of Chinook or fall chum salmon conservation, they must be manned at all times while the baskets are spinning and all Chinook and fall chum salmon must be immediately returned to the water alive. Additionally, in 2026, new regulations require that fish wheels be constructed in a fish friendly manner when used during times of salmon conservation. Baskets must be lined with soft, seine type webbing, and chutes must have a smooth bottom and be lined with closed cell foam. These modifications are intended to reduce injury to salmon from cuts and bruises. Please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak (907-949-1320) or Fairbanks (907-459-7274) if you have questions about gear requirements.

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 a separate Federal special action **ESA 03-KS-14-26** opening selective gear types to target summer chum salmon in waters adjacent to Federal Land. In Federal public waters, the summer chum salmon subsistence fishing opportunity is limited to federally qualified subsistence users for salmon in the Yukon River drainage. 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.

