



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Released: June 30, 2026

Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist
Mike Parker, Assistant Area Management Biologist
1-907-459-7274 (Fairbanks)
1-907-949-1320 (Emmonak)
Toll free fishing schedule and counts: 1-866-479-7387

2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement # 21 **Summer Update # 5, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery** Districts Affected: 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.

Fishing for summer chum salmon will open with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels). Openings have been announced in the Lower Yukon Area. Summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained, and all Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately. If fish wheels are used, they must be manned at all times while the baskets are spinning and all Chinook 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 Chinook and fall chum 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. Retention of summer chum salmon will end when fall season management starts. The fall chum salmon run is forecast to have a low run size and is a Stock of Management Concern. Due to new amendments to the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan fall season will start 3 days earlier than normal 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.

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 29.

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 29, the cumulative CPUE is 927.12 which is below the historic cumulative CPUE of 2031.66.

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)

As of June 29, summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be $330,341 \pm 26,718$ fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative median of 868,344 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $75,653 \pm 16,054$ fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative average of 113,201 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.

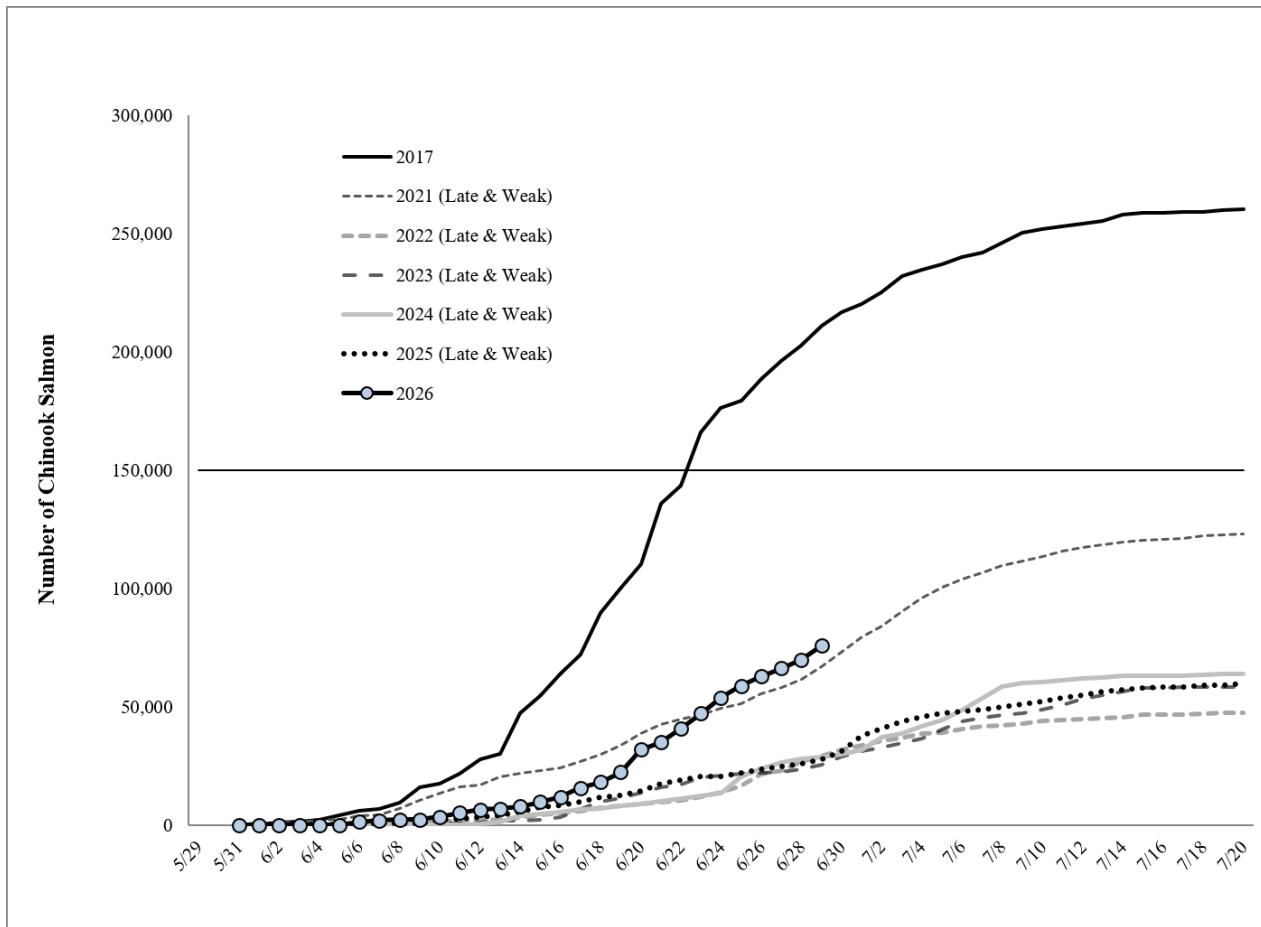


Figure 1. The 2026 Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to the recent five years of late and poor run sizes. Total run sizes below 150,000 (horizontal line) typically fail to achieve escapement goals in Alaska or Canada. Also shown is 2017 – the most recent year when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

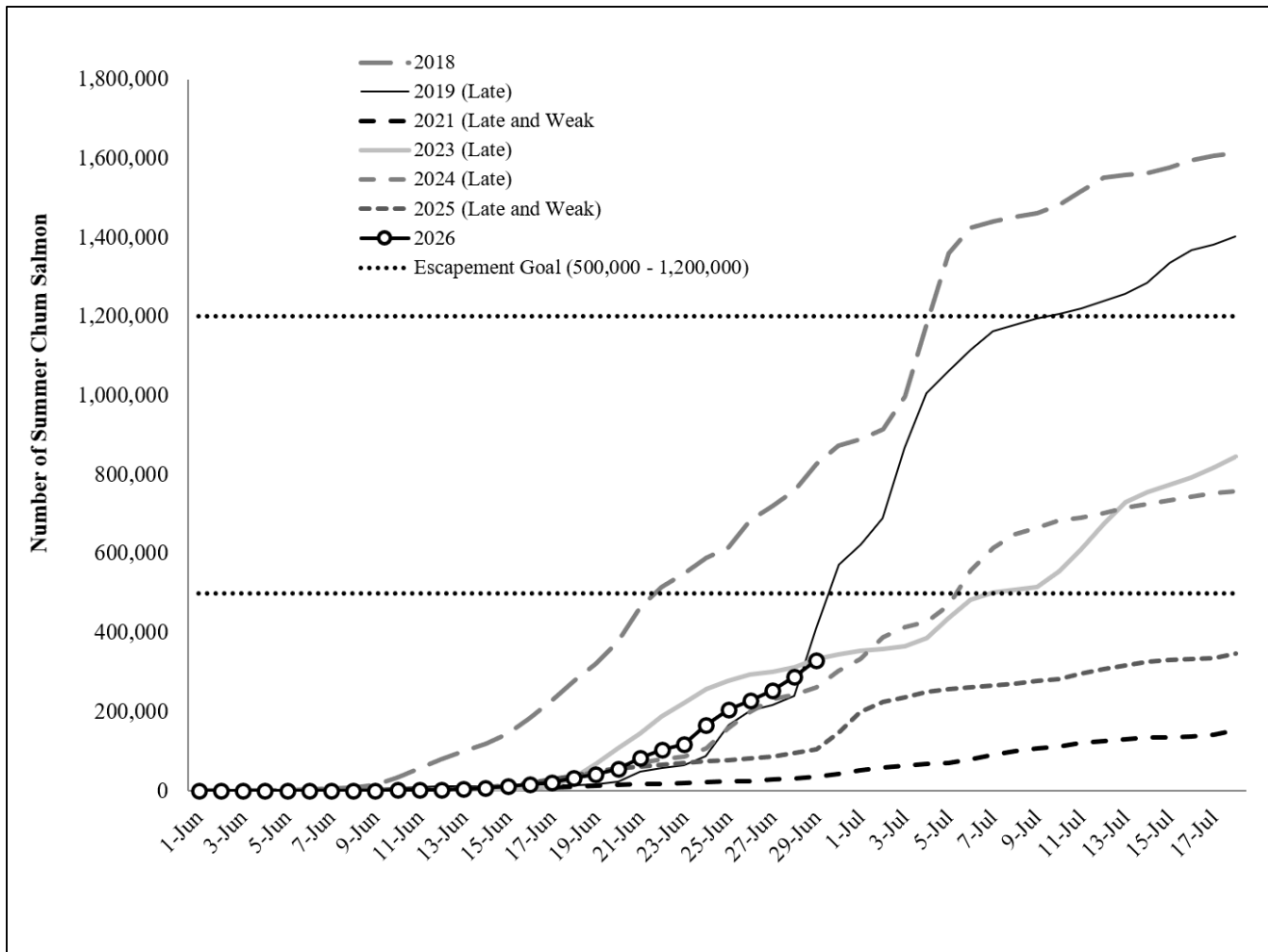


Figure 2. 2026 Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar.

Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 16. Summer chum passage is estimated to be 4,653 ± 250 fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 33,392 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. The first fish was tagged on June 25, and tagged fish are migrating upriver. Tagging has been successful to date and deployed tags appear to be proportional to the run based on historical run timing. 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.

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 166 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery through June 22 was 8% age-4, 73% age-5, and 19% age-6 fish. The percentage of age-5 fish were above average, while age-4 and age-6 fish were below average. Chinook salmon within each age class were similar to the recent 10-year average. The average length of 714 mm across all age classes is slightly smaller than the recent 10-year average length of 727 mm.

The age composition of 211 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through June 21 was 69% age-4, which compares to a historical average of 51%. The age-5 component made up 28% of the samples, which compares to a historical average of 47%. Of the samples, 2% were age-6 fish, which compares to the historical average of 2%. The age-4 fish average length of 552 mm and the age-5 average length of 562 mm are similar or slightly larger compared to average (2016–2025). Female summer chum salmon are similar at 42% compared to a historical average (2016–2025) of 56%.

Stock Identification

The first stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery (from June 6 through June 21) consisted of 99% summer chum salmon of those 96% were lower river, while upriver stocks were barely detectable in the 2% range for middle and Tanana River stocks. The lower summer stocks are above average for this time period. The results are also provided in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>

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.

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-feet 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 wheel 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. Wednesday, July 8, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon, and are restricted to set gillnets 60-feet 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 wheel, 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-feet 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 wheel, 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-feet 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 wheel, and hook and line gear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets may not be used until 8 p.m. Friday, July 10.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets may not be used until 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16.

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 until 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.

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, July 3 until 8 p.m. Monday, July 20, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

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):

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):

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):

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.

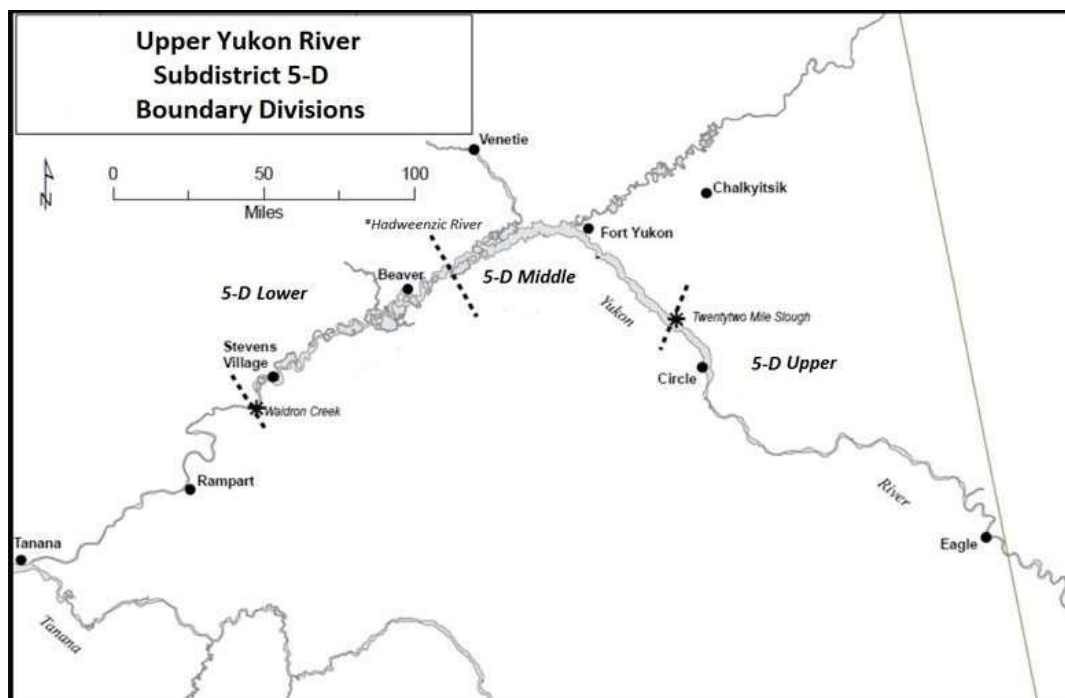


Figure 1. Subdistrict 5-D boundary divisions.

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.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, July 5 until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 22, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

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):

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.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 7 until 8 p.m. Friday July 24, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, 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):

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 closed 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.

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. 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.

