



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist

Mike Parker, Assistant AMB

1-907-949-1320 (Emmonak)

Toll free schedule and counts: 1-866-479-7387

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #22

District 4, and Koyukuk River selective gear openings

Emergency Order Number 3-S-SY-21-26

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of June 30, an estimated 430,000 summer chum salmon have passed Pilot Station sonar. The historical midpoint of the run was on June 29. Current run size projections suggest that the run will be over 650,000 fish, exceed the lower end of the escapement goal range, and provide a surplus for subsistence harvest.

Fishing for summer chum salmon will open with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels). Summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained, but all Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately. All fish wheels must be manned during operation and all Chinook salmon must be released alive. Additionally, new regulations adopted in 2026 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 and increase survivability after release. Summer chum salmon will no longer be allowed to be retained when fall season management begins in each district. The fall chum salmon run is forecast to have a low run size and has been designated as a Stock of Management Concern. Due to recent amendments to the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, fall season will start 3 days earlier than normal in each district.

The Chinook salmon run remains below average and is not expected to meet any escapement goals. The 2026 Chinook salmon run has passed the historical midpoint for both normal (June 25) and late timing (June 29) and tracking similar to the below average runs of 2010 and 2021. Current projections indicate that the Canadian-Origin component of the 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, manned fish wheels, hook and line) while fishing for summer chum salmon.

Fishermen are reminded to practice respectful and safe fish handling techniques to ensure that 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.

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

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 that must be set near shore.

Effective 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2 until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 21 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.

Subdistricts 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek to Cone Point, including Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 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 that must be set near shore.

Effective 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25 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.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (including Galena and Ruby) and the Koyukuk River (including Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, and Coldfoot):

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 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 that must be set near shore.

Effective 6 p.m. Monday, July 6 until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 28 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.

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

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 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. Monday, July 6 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25 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.

In the Koyukuk River above Bettles, including Wiseman, a subsistence fishing permit is required for all species. Gillnet gear in the permit area must be $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches or smaller mesh size and cannot be used until August 20.

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-15-26** 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 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.

