



Advisory Announcement

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #26 **Tanana River Subsistence and Personal Use selective gear openings** **Emergency Order Numbers 3-S-SY-26-26 and 3-S-SY-27-26**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of July 8, an estimated 781,000 summer chum salmon have passed the Pilot Station sonar. Run timing appears to be later than average but similar to recent years. The 2026 summer chum salmon run is above the preseason forecast and within the drainagewide escapement goal range (500,000 to 1.2 million fish). Inseason projections suggest the run size may reach 1,00,000 fish.

Subsistence fishing for summer chum salmon will open with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, and manned fish wheels) during the summer season. In the personal use area, only manned fish wheels and dip nets may be used. Summer chum salmon may be retained, but all Chinook salmon must be immediately released alive. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation and 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 seine type webbing, and chutes must have a smooth bottom lined with closed cell foam. These modifications are intended to reduce injury to salmon and increase survivability. Retention of summer chum salmon will no longer be allowed when fall season management starts. The fall chum salmon run is forecast to be below average and has been designated as a Stock of Management Concern. Due to Board of Fisheries amendments to the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, the fall season will start 3 days earlier than normal in each district.

The Chinook salmon run has exceeded the preseason forecast and as of July 8, an estimated 97,900 fish have passed the Pilot Station sonar. The run remains well below average and is not expected to meet escapement goals in Alaska or Canada. As of July 8, the estimated passage of Chinook salmon at the Chena River tower is 198 fish, which is below the historic average of 379 fish. Conservative management actions are necessary to reduce incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Announced closures of 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets remain in place, and all Chinook salmon must be immediately released alive from selective gear (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels) while fishing for summer chum salmon. These conservation efforts are critical to supporting long-term recovery and ensuring healthy runs for future generations.

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 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

Subdistricts 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):

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday July 22, 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. Friday, July 17 until 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 14 summer chum salmon may be retained from dip net, beach seine, and manned fish wheels. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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.

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

All gillnets remain closed as previously announced. Effective 8 p.m. Friday July 24, 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 20 until 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 14 summer chum salmon may be retained from dip net, beach seine, and manned fish wheels. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

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 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.

Nonlethal or selective gear types for nonsalmon may still be used, including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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):

Effective 6 p.m. Monday, July 27 until 12 p.m. noon, Wednesday, August 12, Personal Use fishing is open for summer chum salmon with dip nets and manned fish wheels on a schedule of 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

All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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 manned fish wheels is open on the Personal Use Salmon fishing schedule listed above effective 6 p.m. Monday, July 27 until 12 p.m. noon, Wednesday, August 12. 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, 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 a separate Federal special action ESA 03-KS-18-26 opening selective gear types to target summer chum salmon in waters adjacent to Federal Land. In Federal public waters, summer chum salmon retention 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.

