



Advisory Announcement

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #17

Fall Update #6, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Inseason assessment suggests, the Yukon River fall chum salmon run is projecting to be above the upper end of the drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000–600,000 fish. With the fall chum salmon run projecting to meet both its drainagewide escapement goal and Alaska tributary escapement goals, subsistence fishing restrictions can be relaxed in tributaries where Canadian-origin fall chum salmon stocks will not be intercepted. The Yukon River mainstem and Porcupine River drainage remain closed to protect Canadian-origin fall chum salmon as they make their way upriver. Assessment of Canadian-origin fall chum salmon stocks using genetic mixed stock analysis and the Yukon River mainstem sonar project at Eagle is ongoing to determine if treaty goals will be met. The interim management escapement goal for the mainstem Yukon River is 70,000–104,000 fall chum salmon and the Fishing Branch River is 22,000–49,000 fall chum salmon.

As of August 25, genetic analysis applied to the fish passage estimates at the Yukon River mainstem sonar near Pilot Station indicate 752,000 fall chum salmon are in the river, above the historical median of 647,000 fish for this date (Figure 1). Based on historical median timing, 84% of the fall chum salmon run is complete in the lower river.

The coho salmon run is past its historic midpoint and is well below the historical average run index of 212,000 fish. Run size projections range from 63,000 to 86,000 coho salmon, based on median to late run timing. Subsistence fishing for coho salmon is currently closed but we will continue to monitor passage to identify any potential fishing opportunities.

Currently, subsistence fishing for coho salmon is closed but fall chum salmon retention is allowed using legal selective subsistence gear types in most tributaries of the Yukon River (See below management actions by specific location in the drainage). A tributary is a smaller stream or river that flows into or feeds the Yukon River mainstem. Nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch gillnets is reduced to protect coho and fall chum salmon bound for Canada. Assessment projects will continue to monitor the run throughout the migration to determine if there is enough improvement to allow increased fishing opportunity. Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). To subscribe to these updates, fill out the form on the following website: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.search>

Daily sonar passage estimates and LYTF test fish numbers are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG) and can be heard by calling toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

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

Fall season operations began on July 16 using 6-inch mesh gear to target fall chum and coho salmon. As of August 25, the cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon was 1,707.99, which is above the historic cumulative CPUE of 1,182.56 for this date. As of August 25, the cumulative CPUE for coho salmon was 44.18, which is well below the historic cumulative CPUE of 255.79 for this date. The three-quarter point for coho salmon, based on median run timing, occurs on August 27. Fall chum and coho salmon are sampled for ASL (Age, Sex, and Length) and all retained fish are distributed to local communities.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project operated near Pilot Station transitioned to fall season counts on July 19. As of August 25, the cumulative passage is approximately 856,000 chum salmon in the fall season. This is above the median cumulative passage of 535,000 chum salmon in the fall season for this date. NOTE: these values include a mixture of summer and fall chum salmon, once genetics are applied, they will effectively reduce the mainstem sonar estimated number of fall chum salmon in the river.

The coho salmon cumulative passage as of August 25 is approximately 37,000 fish (Figure 2), which is below the median passage of 123,000 fish for this date. The three-quarter point for coho salmon based on median run timing occur on August 31.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

This sonar project began operations August 14. As of August 25, the cumulative passage was 7,039 fall chum salmon, and the daily passage is well below the average 15,000 fish for this date. The first pulse of chum salmon to enter the river is just arriving at this location. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 7 at this project.

Sheenjiek River Sonar / ADF&G

This sonar project began operations August 6. As of August 25, the cumulative passage was 1,391 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 4,000 fish. The first pulse of chum salmon to enter the river is just arriving at this location. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 8 at this project.

Eagle Sonar / ADF&G and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

This project typically transitions from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon late August or early September.

Porcupine River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This sonar project transitioned to counting fall chum salmon on August 18. As of September 24, the cumulative passage was 372 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 1,174 fish for this date. The first-quarter point for fall chum salmon based on median timing is September 6 at this project.

Fishing Branch River Weir/Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This project will begin counting fall chum salmon sometime in late August or early September.

Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 292 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 18 through August 8, consisted of 92% age-4 and 8% age-5 fish. The age-4 fish are well above the 2001–2025 historical average of 64% age-4. The percentage of female chum salmon through August 25 has remained low at 46%, which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 57%. The fall season chum salmon average length through August 24 was 568 mm which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 583 mm.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis on chum salmon that passed the mainstem sonar from August 3 through August 10 indicated 5% were summer chum and 95% were fall chum salmon. The next stratum including August 11 forward is on the way to the lab. The results are provided in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>

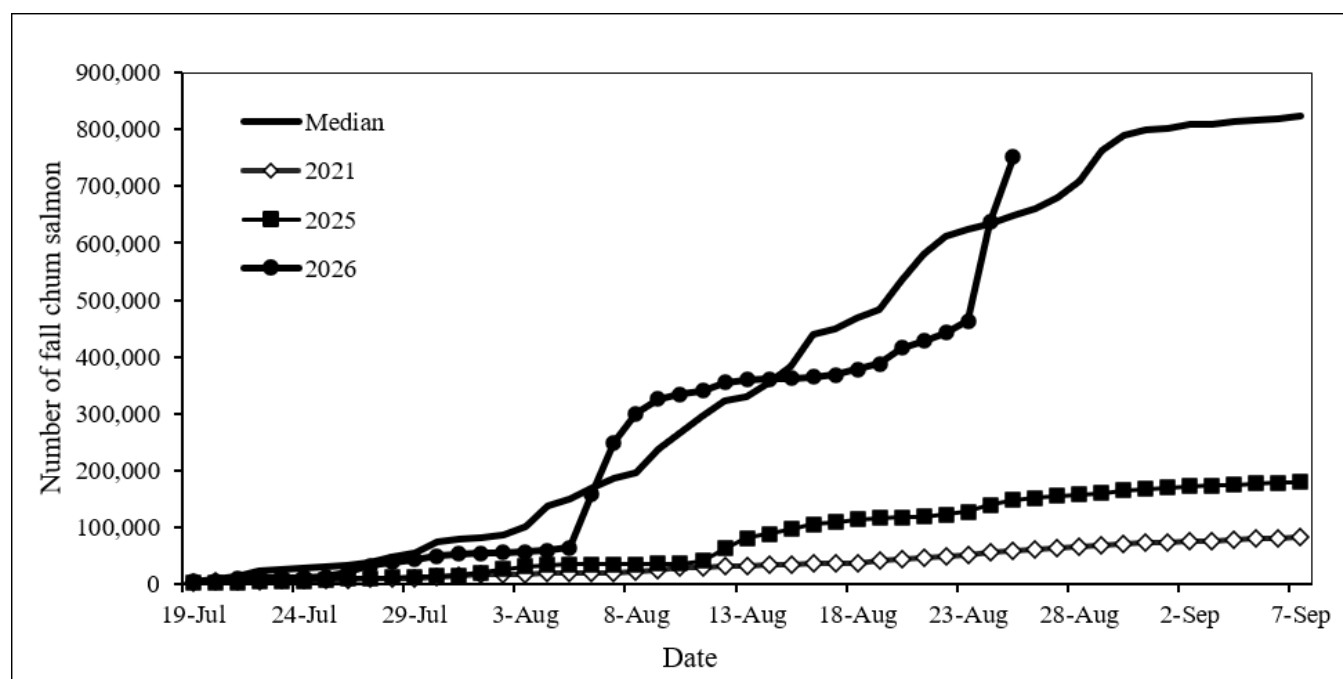


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon (as determined using genetic mixed stock analysis) at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2026 compared to the historical median and select years.

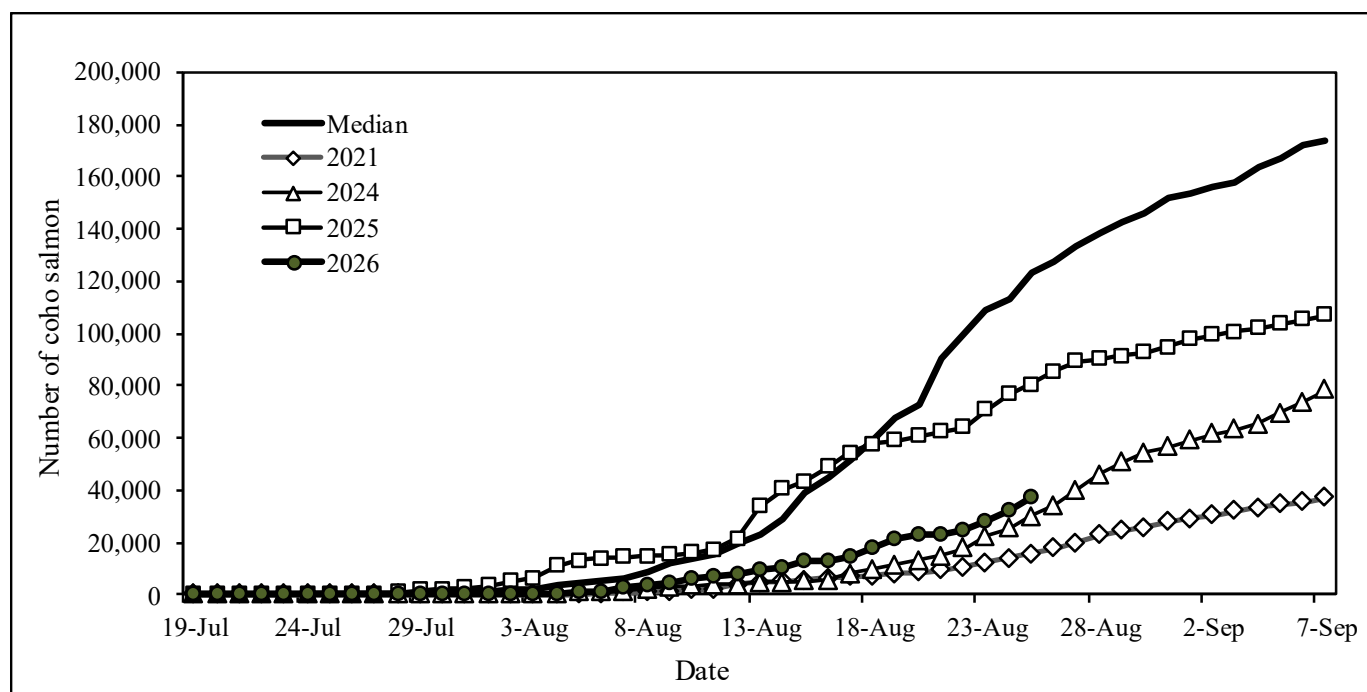


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar (Pilot Station), including estimates of downstream harvests, in 2026 compared to historical median and select recent years.

Summer Assessment Projects

Chinook Radio Telemetry (ADF&G)

In 2026, 147 Chinook salmon were tagged near Rampart Rapids. These tagged fish will be tracked throughout the upper Yukon in Alaska and Canada to evaluate en-route mortality and spawning distribution. Each fish was 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.

Eagle Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 30. As of August 23, Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $35,219 \pm 382$ fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical cumulative average of 47,270 fish. Assuming normal run timing, the Chinook salmon run is over 99% complete at the U.S./Canada border. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is below average and will not meet the international border passage objective, but the estimate is larger than what has been observed since 2020. The average transition date between counting Chinook and fall chum salmon at this project is August 18.

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types including manned fish wheels, hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net.

Coastal District, District 1, and District 2 (from the Naskonat Peninsula, north to Point Romanof, and upstream to the tip of Cone Point, which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, and Marshall):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon is closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays.** Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore. Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including manned fish wheels, 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.

Subsistence fishing in the Yukon River mainstem and the Black River for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon remains closed.

In all tributaries of the Yukon River, except the Black River:

Subsistence fishing is open for chum salmon and nonsalmon, 500 feet upstream from the mainstem or 1 mile inland from the coast, will open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with selective gear types including manned fish wheels, hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net.

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets remains open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice.** Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #1 and #2 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

District 3, District 4, and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (including the communities of Russian Mission, Holy Cross, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, and Rampart):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon is closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays.** Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore. Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including manned fish wheels, 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.

Subsistence fishing in the Yukon River mainstem for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon remains closed.

In all tributaries of the Yukon River:

Subsistence fishing is open for chum salmon and nonsalmon, 500 feet upstream from the mainstem Yukon River, will open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with selective gear types including manned fish wheels, hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net.

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets remains open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice.** Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #3, #4, and #7 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and

maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

Subdistricts 5-D Lower, 5-D Middle, and 5-D Upper (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream the U.S./Canada border, including the Teedriinjik and Porcupine rivers, all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon is closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays**. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Subsistence fishing in the Yukon River mainstem for chum and coho salmon remains closed.

In all tributaries of the Yukon River, except the Porcupine River drainage:

Subsistence fishing is open for salmon and nonsalmon, 500 feet upstream from the mainstem Yukon River, will open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear.

Porcupine River drainage

Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon remains closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon from **noon Thursdays, through noon Sundays**. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore. Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types.

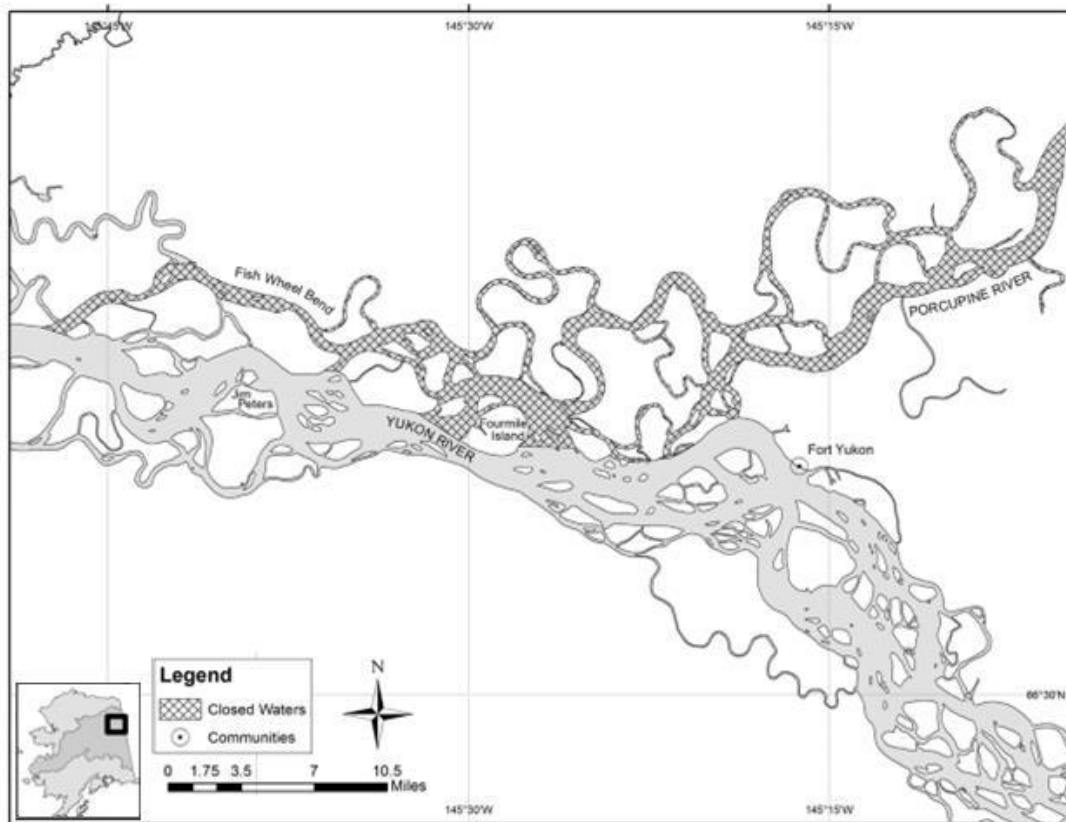


Figure 3. Map showing the Porcupine River confluence with the Yukon River.

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets remains open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice**. Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcement #7 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

In Birch Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 4 inches.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and the Old Minto Area (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Effective 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 26, subsistence fishing for chum salmon and nonsalmon, will open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with selective gear types including manned fish wheels, hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. **Subsistence fishing for coho salmon remains closed.**

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets remains open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice**. Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcement #9 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

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):

Coho 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 and the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

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):

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 28, personal use fishing for chum salmon will open with dip nets and manned fish wheels on a schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

6:00 p.m. Mondays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Fridays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sundays

All coho 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 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 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 in cooperation with the USFWS.

Federal Special Actions will be posted on www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

ADF&G Advisory Announcements and fish counts can be obtained by visiting www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG or www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts. To receive advisory announcements by email, sign up at www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov.



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