



Advisory Announcement

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #26

Fall Update #10, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Overall, the fall chum salmon run is projecting to be greater than 900,000 fish, well above the upper end of the drainagewide escapement goal range of 300,000–600,000 fish. However, the proportion of Canadian-origin fall chum salmon (15%) is well below the historical average of 30%. Projections of fall chum salmon headed to the Canada indicate that the border escapement goals may be met, however there is not enough certainty in our projections to identify a large enough harvestable surplus to support directed fishing on those stocks. The Yukon River Salmon Agreement with Canada (treaty) obligates the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to be projected to meet international treaty objectives before opening directed subsistence fishing for salmon in the mainstem Yukon River. The treaty objective (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. Due to the low Canadian component of the run, a precautionary approach to management is still warranted in areas where the Canadian-origin fall chum are currently migrating. As the fall chum and coho salmon migrations are nearing completion, subsistence fishing restrictions are being removed in most areas based on fall chum salmon travel time. The mainstem of the Porcupine River will remain closed until the escapement goal on the Fishing Branch River is projected to be met.

The 2026 coho salmon run is late and relatively weak. At this time, the run projection based on historic late run timing is 116,000 fish, well below the historical average run index of 212,000 coho salmon. However, the coho salmon run increased to a level that is able to support subsistence harvest.

As the Canada-bound fall chum salmon have migrated through most districts and the overall run is nearing completion, subsistence fishing restrictions are being removed based on fall chum salmon travel time. Upper Yukon assessment projects will be ongoing into October, followed by foot, boat, and aerial salmon enumeration surveys through early December.

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 Projects

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

Fall season operations began on July 16 and concluded on September 7 using 6-inch mesh gear to target fall chum and coho salmon. Operations through the normal end date of September 10 were cut short due to weather. Through September 7, the cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon was 2,123.01, which is above the historic cumulative CPUE of 1,272.81 for this date. The run timing for chum salmon was 9 days later than median at this site. Through September 7, the cumulative CPUE for coho salmon was 112.69, which is well below the historic cumulative CPUE of 305.29 for this date. The run timing for coho salmon was 5 days later than median at this site. Fall chum and coho salmon were sampled for ASL (Age, Sex, and Length) and all retained fish were distributed to local communities.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project operated near Pilot Station transitioned to fall season on July 19 and concluded operations on September 7. Genetic mixed stock analysis, when applied to the passage estimates indicate approximately 914,000 fall chum salmon are in the river, through September 7 (Figure 1). This is above the median cumulative passage of 822,000 fall chum salmon for this date. The cumulative passage of ALL chum salmon during the regulatory fall season is approximately 1,029,000 fish and includes a mixture of both summer and fall chum salmon. The run timing for all chum salmon in the fall season was 11 days late, while the genetic fall chum salmon was 9 days late at this site.

The coho salmon cumulative passage through September 7 was approximately 102,000 fish (Figure 2), which is below the historical passage of 177,000 fish through this date. The run timing for coho salmon was 4 days later than median at this site.

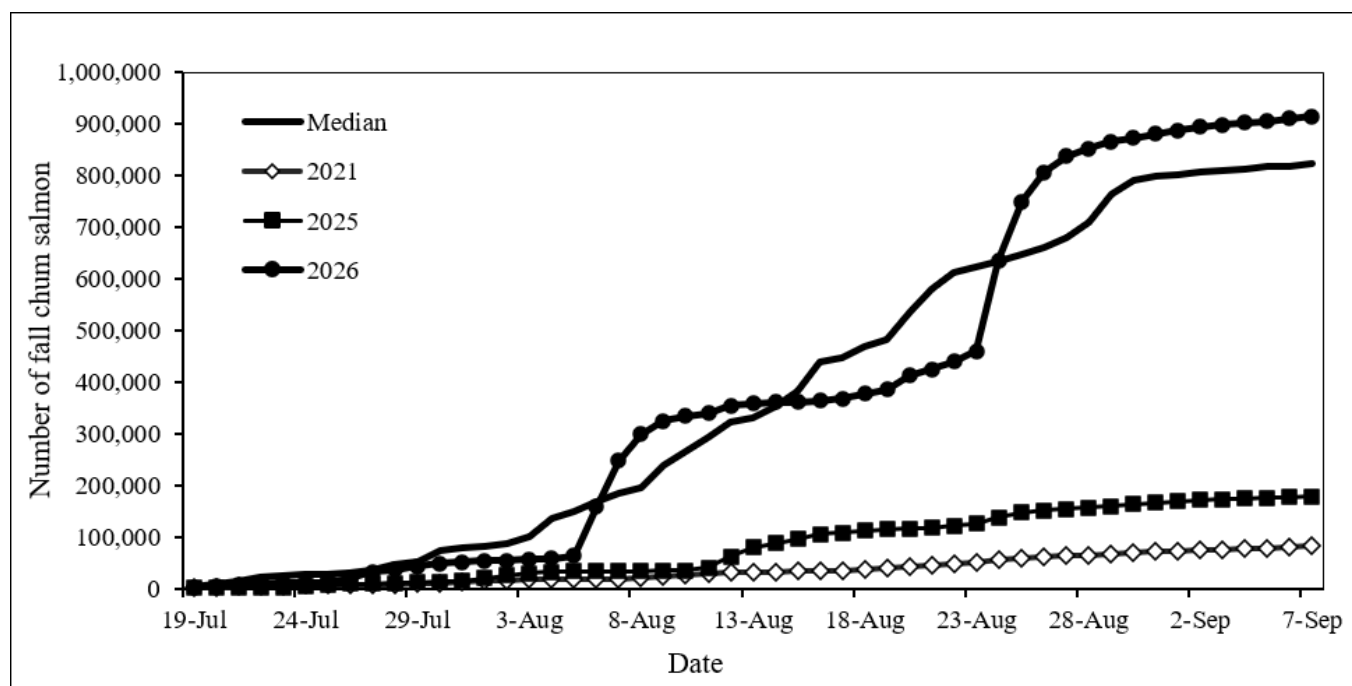


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon (as determined using genetic mixed stock analysis) at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2026 compared to the historical median and select years.

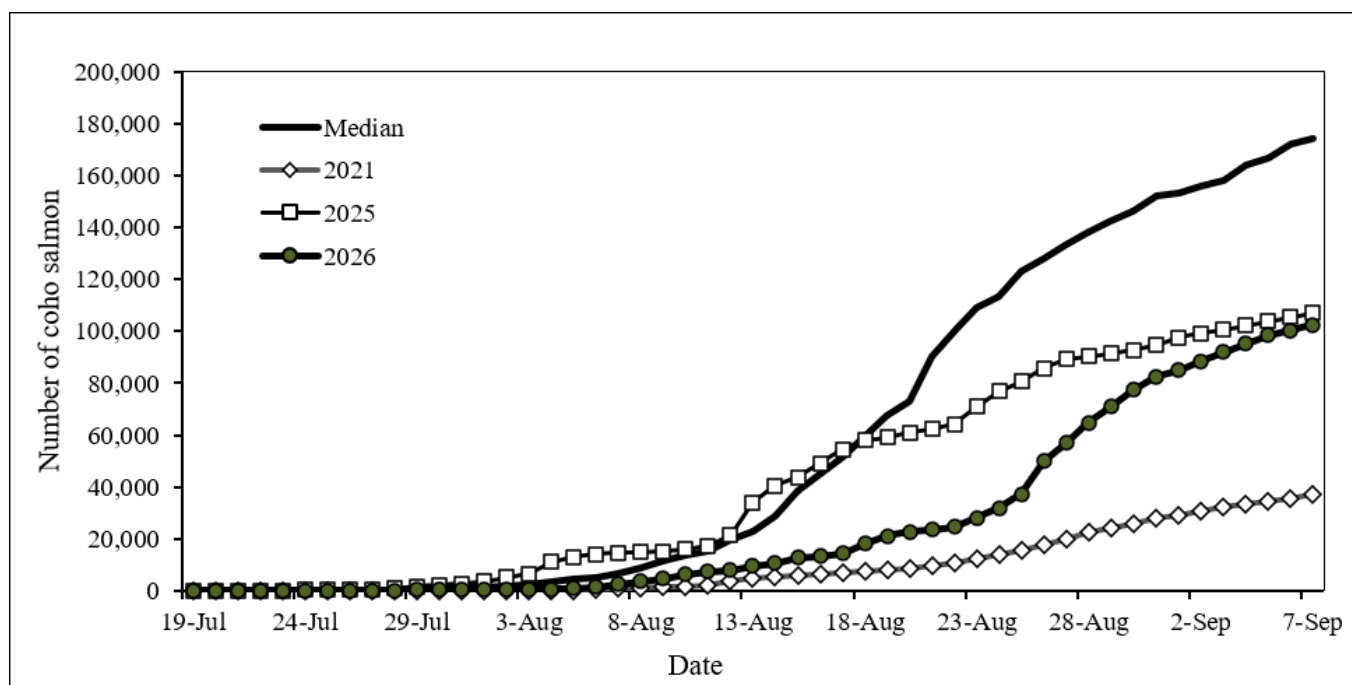


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar (Pilot Station), including estimates of downstream harvests, in 2026 compared to historical median and select recent years.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

This sonar project began operations August 14. As of September 23, the cumulative passage was 184,600 fall chum salmon, which is above the median passage of 147,400 fish for this date. By this date the fall chum salmon run is typically 85% complete based on median timing. The Teedriinjik escapement goal range is 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar / ADF&G

The project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage of fall chum salmon, which includes a preliminary expansion after sonar operations ceased on September 26, through October 14 is 31,767 fish which is well below the median passage of 62,000 fish. The estimate is considered a minimum since the fall chum salmon run was one of the latest on record and it is unknown if the second pulse had peaked before termination. Run timing was at least two days late compared to the median date of September 15.

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

The sonar project transitioned to counting fall chum salmon on August 30. As of September 27, the cumulative passage is 26,500 fall chum salmon which is below the median of 85,000 fish for this date (Figure 3). The three-quarter point for fall chum salmon passage based on median timing is September 30 for this project.

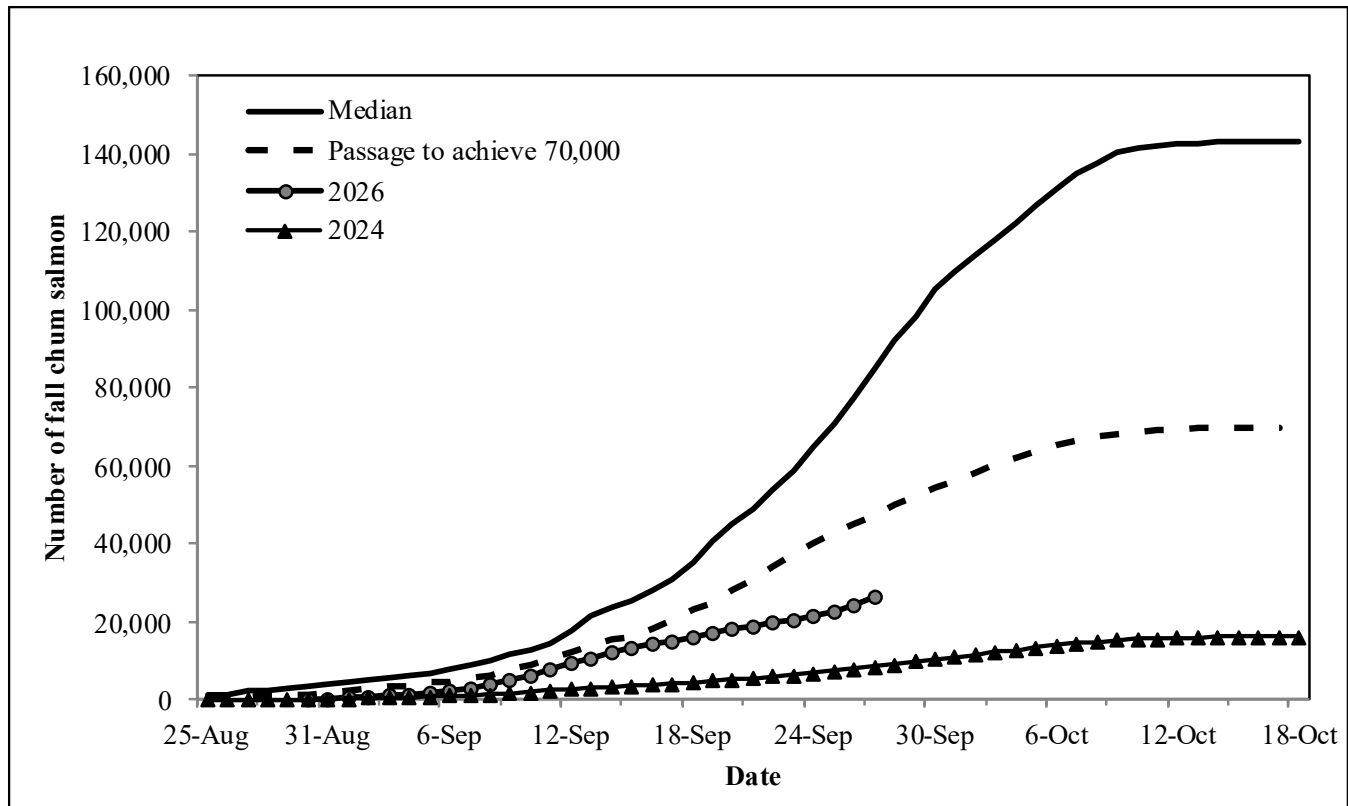


Figure 3. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar assessment project near Eagle. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the Interim Management Escapement Goal.

Porcupine River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This sonar project transitioned to counting fall chum salmon on August 18. As of September 27, the cumulative passage was 18,300 fall chum salmon, which is near the median of 20,300 fish for this date. The fall chum salmon run is typically 85% complete based on median timing, by this date.

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

This project began counting fall chum salmon on August 27. Counts have been suspended since September 5 due to high water. The three-quarter point for fall chum salmon passage based on median timing is October 1 for this project.

Klondike River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

This sonar project transitioned from counting Chinook salmon to chum salmon on September 3. As of September 21, the cumulative passage was 29 fall chum salmon. This is the first season of counts at this project for fall chum salmon.

Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 715 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 18 through September 7, consisted of 94% age-4 and 5% age-5 fish. The age-4 fish are well above the 2001–2025 historical average of 69% and the age-5 fish are well below the average of 28%. Of 761 chum salmon sampled through September 7, the percentage of females was 48%, which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 58%. The fall season chum salmon average length through September 7 was 568 mm, which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 582 mm.

The age composition of 54 coho salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 18 through September 7, consisted of 30% age-3 and 70% age-4 fish which compared to the historical averages of 19% age-3 and 75% age-4. Of 62 coho salmon sampled through September 7, the percentage of female was 47%, which comparable to the 2001–2025 historical average. The coho salmon average length through September 7 was 546 mm, which is well below the 2001–2025 historical average of 562 mm.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis on chum salmon that passed the mainstem sonar from August 27 through September 7 indicated the stratum was 93% fall chum salmon. Of the fall chum salmon in this stratum, 7% were the Yukon River mainstem Canada stocks. Overall, the fall chum salmon stocks sampled from June 6 to September 7, consist of 30% Border/US (Teedriinjik, Sheenjek, Draanjik, and Coleen), 15% Canadian, and 54% Tanana Fall. Further breakdown of the results were provided in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>.

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.

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Coastal District, Districts 1-4, and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, 5-C, and 5-D Lower (including the Innoko and Koyukuk rivers, and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross, Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia Hughes, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, and Beaver):

Subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in Subdistrict 5-C from the western-most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek (Dalton Highway bridge area).

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough, including the Teedriinjik River and the communities of Venetie, Birch Creek, and Fort Yukon):

Effective 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 30, subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

Porcupine River drainage (including the community of Chalkyitsik):

In the mainstem Porcupine River, including those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River (Figure 4), subsistence fishing for salmon will remain closed through December 31. 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.

In all tributaries of the Porcupine River, including the Sheenjek, Draanjik (Black), Coleen, and Salmon Trout rivers:

Subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon **500 feet upstream from the mainstem Porcupine River** is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with **6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets** and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

Effective 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 30, subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon **500 feet upstream from the mainstem Porcupine River** will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with **7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets** and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

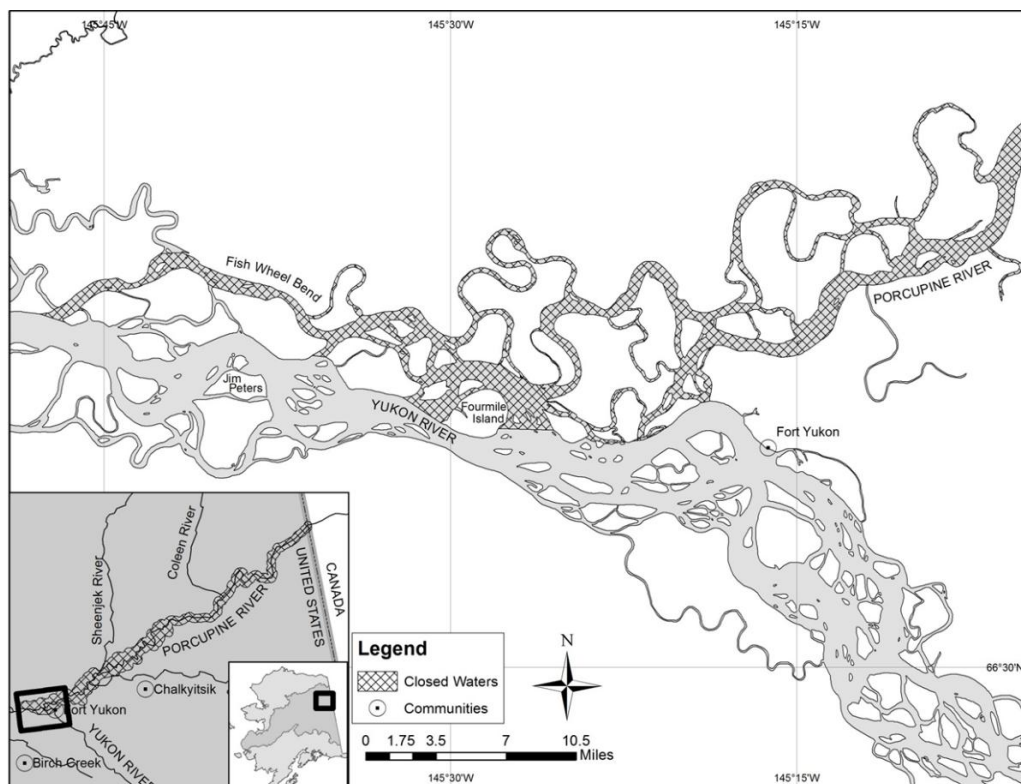


Figure 4. Map showing the Porcupine River confluence with the Yukon River.

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):

Effective 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 6, subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

A subsistence fishing 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 the Dall River and in Subdistrict 5-D Upper from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border. Permits are available at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store. If you are outside the permit area, contact the Fairbanks office at 907-459-7274 for a subsistence harvest calendar.

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

Subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

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):

Subsistence fishing for salmon and nonsalmon is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

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 open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

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 is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. 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 schedule and dates that actions will be lifted. 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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