

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 23
District 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area**

As of June 16, the sonar project near Pilot Station estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 62,700 Chinook salmon and a cumulative passage of approximately 408,000 summer chum salmon. These estimates are well above average for this date. Though it is still early in the season to assess run strength, these cumulative passage estimates and the strength of the second pulse currently being counted at the sonar project indicate we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 130,000-175,000 Chinook and 1.3 to 1.8 million summer chum salmon.

Consistent with management strategies discussed at the pre-season meeting, it is warranted to provide a restricted subsistence gillnet opportunity for Chinook and summer chum salmon in the lower districts as the first and second pulse have migrated through these districts.

A single 18-hour gillnet subsistence fishing period is being provided in District 3 starting Wednesday, June 22. During this subsistence period, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Fishermen are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon may be encountered. However, any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use. This gear restriction is meant to provide a chum salmon harvest opportunity while minimizing the harvest of larger, older Chinook salmon.

Additional subsistence fishing periods, consistent with a reduced regulatory schedule may be announced dependent on run assessment.

Management Actions

District 3 Subsistence:

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with dip nets and beach seines. All Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately from dip nets and beach seines.

Effective Wednesday, June 22, subsistence salmon fishing will open with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for a single 18-hour period. The subsistence gillnet opening times are:

- Wednesday, June 22, 8:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Thursday, June 23

Following this subsistence gillnet opening, subsistence fishing will be closed until the next subsistence period is announced. All salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use but fishermen are being asked to take a conservative approach to their Chinook salmon harvest. Dip nets and beach seines may not be used during subsistence gillnet periods.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at (907) 949-1798.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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