

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



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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 24 Subdistrict 4-A Subsistence Fishing Schedule Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2016 Chinook and summer chum salmon runs appear to be early and as of June 16, the sonar project near Pilot Station estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 62,700 Chinook salmon and approximately 408,000 summer chum salmon. These estimates are well above the average for early years. Though it is still early in the season to assess run strength, these cumulative passage estimates and the strength of the second pulse counted at the sonar project indicate we are likely within our pre-season projection ranges 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 subsistence harvest opportunity for Chinook and summer chum salmon on a reduced regulatory schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets as the first pulse of Chinook salmon has migrated past this subdistrict. This gear restriction is meant to provide a chum salmon harvest opportunity while minimizing the harvest of larger, older Chinook salmon.

In Subdistrict 4-A the reduced regulatory fishing schedule will consist of two 24-hour periods per week. During these subsistence periods, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels. Chinook salmon caught during these periods may be retained for subsistence use. Subsistence fishing is closed between the 24-hour periods.

Management Actions

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling including all tributaries):

Currently, subsistence summer chum salmon fishing in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with selective gear including dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels only. Any Chinook salmon caught in these gear types must be immediately released to the water alive. The selective gear fishing season is being discontinued effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 22.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels until further notice on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Thursdays
- 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Mondays

All salmon caught in gillnets and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use but fishermen are being asked to take a conservative approach to their Chinook salmon harvest.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Currently, subsistence summer chum salmon fishing in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with selective gear including dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels only. Any Chinook salmon caught in these selective gear types must be immediately released to the water alive. The selective gear fishing season is being discontinued effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 27.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 27, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels until further notice on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays
- 6:00 p.m. Thursdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays

All salmon caught in gillnets and fish wheels may be retained for subsistence use but fishermen are being asked to take a conservative approach to their Chinook salmon harvest.

Drift and set gillnets are allowed in all of Subdistrict 4-A during subsistence salmon openings. Fishermen are reminded that a set gillnet may not exceed 150 fathoms and a drift gillnet may not exceed 25 fathoms in length.

Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets of 60 feet or shorter length to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon fishing closures.

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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