

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 25**

#### **Districts 1 and 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of June 19, the sonar project near Pilot Station estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 76,700 Chinook salmon and a cumulative passage of approximately 552,900 summer chum salmon. These estimates are well above average for both species at 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 of Chinook salmon counted at the sonar project indicate we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 130,000–175,000 Chinook salmon. A run of this size should be sufficient to meet escapement goals and provide for limited subsistence harvest.

Consistent with management strategies discussed at the pre-season meeting, it is warranted to provide additional subsistence harvest opportunity for Chinook and summer chum salmon consistent with a reduced regulatory schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, as the first and second pulse of Chinook salmon have migrated past these districts. This gear restriction is meant to provide a chum salmon harvest opportunity while minimizing the harvest of larger, older Chinook salmon.

One 18-hour subsistence salmon fishing period has been announced in Districts 1 and 2. This news release announces one additional 18-hour subsistence salmon fishing period for these districts. During these subsistence periods, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Subsistence fishing for salmon is closed between the fishing periods. Any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use.

**Management Actions****District 1 (including the Black River) Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 20, the subsistence dip net and beach seine fishery is closed.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 20, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 18-hour periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets:

- 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 20, until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 21
- 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 23, until 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 24

Chinook salmon caught in gillnets may be retained for subsistence use. Between the fishing periods subsistence salmon fishing is closed.

**District 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

Effective 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 19, the subsistence dip net and beach seine fishery is closed.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 19, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 18-hour periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets:

- 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 19, until 2:00 p.m. Monday, June 20
- 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, until 2:00 p.m. Thursday, June 23

Chinook salmon caught in gillnets may be retained for subsistence use. Between the fishing periods subsistence salmon fishing is closed.

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