

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelly, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Jeff Estensen, Area Management Biologist
Christy Gleason, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Upper Yukon Area Office
1300 College Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 459-7274
Fax: (907) 459-7271

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Karen P. Clark, Acting Regional Director
Gene Peltola, Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

Date Issued: September 29, 2016

2016 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 59

Porcupine River Subsistence Fishing

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area
Emergency Order #50

Based on the current fall chum salmon passage and favorable projections at the Fishing Branch River weir and Porcupine River border sonar projects, the subsistence fishing time restriction is being relaxed to the regulatory fishing schedule on the Porcupine River. The estimated fall chum salmon passage at the Porcupine River border sonar through September 28 is 42,998 fish, which is above the 5-year median of 21,591 fish for that date. At the Fishing Branch River weir, the fall chum salmon passage is 16,114 fish through September 28, which is below the historical median of 19,397 fish for that date. However, the Fishing Branch weir began operation on September 8 which is at least a week later than normal because of high water level. It is assumed that there was a buildup of fall chum salmon that migrated past the weir site prior to operation because the first several days of operation were marked by the highest days of passage so far this season. Inseason projections at both projects suggest that the lower end of the Fishing Branch River interim management escapement goal (22,000 to 49,000) will be achieved. Also, it is likely that the majority of the fall chum salmon run has passed out of Alaska waters and into the Canadian portion of the Porcupine River drainage. Therefore, the department is reopening the U.S. portion of the Porcupine River (and areas of the mainstem Yukon River near the mouth-see attached map) to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Managers will continue to closely monitor fall chum escapement into the Fishing Branch River.

Porcupine River: Subsistence salmon fishing is currently on a 72-hour subsistence fishing schedule from 12:00 noon Mondays to 12:00 noon Thursdays in the Porcupine River, including those portions of the mainstem Yukon River around the 3 mouths of the Porcupine River.

Effective 12:00 noon, Friday, September 30, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Subsistence fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels during the fishing periods.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 455-1845.

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

-end-

