

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Holly Carroll, Area Management Biologist
Deena Jallen, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service; Federal Subsistence Board
Greg Siekaneic, 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: June 19, 2017

2017 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 16

Districts 1-3 Commercial and Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Current Chinook salmon assessment near the midpoint in the run indicates run strength is similar to 2016 and possibly better, therefore less restrictive subsistence fishing opportunity is warranted. Subsistence fishing is being relaxed to allow fishing with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in order to provide harvest opportunity for summer chum and for Chinook salmon. The intent is to spread harvest across more of the run, providing harvest opportunity sooner after the first pulse than 2016, so fishermen can harvest higher quality summer chum and Chinook salmon while drying conditions are typically better.

Management Actions:

Subsistence fishing with gillnets is now open. Dip nets and beach seines may no longer be used for subsistence.

District 1 (including Black River and North Coastal District) Subsistence:

Subsistence fishing is currently open from 4 a.m. until 2 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays (one 10-hr period each day) with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective 4 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, subsistence fishing is open from 4 a.m. until 2 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays (one 10-hr period each day) with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

District 1 (including Black River) Commercial:

As a reminder, commercial fishing for summer chum salmon remains on schedule with selective gear only, from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. Mondays thru Saturdays (one 12-hour period each day except Sunday) until further notice. All Chinook salmon must be released alive from commercial dip

nets and beach seines and recorded on a fish ticket. Commercial openings with gillnets for summer chum salmon will be considered based on Chinook salmon run strength. Fishermen should stand by for further announcements.

District 2 Subsistence:

Subsistence fishing is currently open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday (one 10-hour period each day) with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, Subsistence fishing is open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday (one 10-hr period each day) with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

District 2 Commercial:

Commercial fishing will begin in District 2 to target summer chum salmon with dip nets and beach seines. Because there is limiting buyer capacity in District 2 above Mountain Village this season, fishermen must ensure they have a buyer before fishing. Commercial fishing will be open with selective gear only for two 6-hour periods:

- **From 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 21 until 3 a.m. Thursday, June 22**
- **From 9 p.m. Friday, June 23 until 3 a.m. Saturday, June 24**

More periods may be announced based on buyer capacity. **All Chinook salmon must be released alive from commercial dip nets and beach seines and recorded on a fish ticket.**

District 3:

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open until 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 20 with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective noon Tuesday, June 20, subsistence fishing will open for one 24-hour period with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels from noon Tuesday June 20, until noon Wednesday, June 21.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, subsistence fishing will be open on the regulatory schedule of two 48-hour periods per week from 8 p.m. Wednesdays to 8 a.m. Fridays, and from 8 p.m. Sundays to 8 a.m. Tuesdays with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Innoko River:

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

General Reminder: During fishing closures, fishermen may use gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh of 60 feet or shorter length to target non salmon species. Chinook salmon harvested in 4-inch or smaller gillnets may be kept.

Fishing schedules, test fish catches and sonar counts are available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions, please call ADF&G in Emmonak at 949-1320, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at 949-1798.

-end-