

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 5
Summer Announcement # 3, Yukon River District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

A very conservative management approach is being taken early in the season to protect the 2015 Chinook salmon run, which is anticipated to be weak. Conservative management actions are being implemented in accordance with the preseason management plan discussed at the preseason planning meeting and outlined in the 2015 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook. Subsistence fishing for salmon has been closed in the Northern Portion of the Coastal District and in Districts 1 and 2. District 3 is currently restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and a closure will be implemented as Chinook salmon migrate into the district.

Following management actions already taken in the lower river districts, a precautionary management approach in Subdistrict 4-A is also being taken early in the season that will restrict gillnets to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. The intent is to have a gear restriction already in place before Chinook salmon begin their spawning migration through this area while still providing an opportunity to fish for early summer chum salmon and non-salmon species. Subdistrict 4-A should anticipate subsistence salmon fishing closures once Chinook salmon begin moving through the district.

Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon may be encountered. Fishery managers appreciate any subsistence harvest and fishing effort reports as they provide important information when considering early season management actions.

Subsistence fishing opportunities to harvest summer chum salmon with fish wheels equipped with a chute or live box will be provided in District 4 when summer chum salmon abundance increases.

District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules:

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 4-A and the time it takes salmon to migrate through this section of river, this subdistrict will be further subdivided into two separate management areas. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when altering the subsistence fishing schedule to conserve Chinook salmon.

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

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen may use fish wheels, however, fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

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

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen may use fish wheels, however, fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less. Fishermen should anticipate fishing restrictions as Chinook salmon migrate upriver.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less. Fishermen should be prepared for management actions that will close subsistence salmon fishing when the first pulse of Chinook salmon is expected to be migrating into the Koyukuk River.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** (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 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 455-1849.

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

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