

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



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**2019 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 8
Summer Update # 3, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery
Districts Affected: Yukon Area**

Water levels are dropping and woody debris has been intermittent in the lower river. A strong early trickle of Chinook is making its way upriver and the first pulse of Chinook salmon is being counted at the Pilot Station sonar. The average first quarter point at the sonar for Chinook salmon with normal run timing is June 19. In the Lower Yukon Test Fishery, Chinook salmon catches have been good for multiple tides and chum salmon catches have begun to increase. In recent years, there has been a strong early trickle of chum salmon, though that has not been the case this season, which may indicate a late run. Though summer chum salmon estimates are below average at the Pilot Station sonar, this beginning portion of the run represents between 2 and 9% of the run, with the first quartile of a late run occurring, on average, on June 24th at the sonar project.

The inseason salmon management teleconferences hosted by Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association will be held every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. To participate, call (800) 315-6338, and enter code: YUKON# (98566#). Sharing your local knowledge, harvest information and fishing observations on these calls is very helpful for effective management.

Assessment Projects

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF)/ ADF&G and YDFDA

The combined cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE for the 8.5-inch set gillnet at the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites is 5.43, which is below the historical average of 7.79. The cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE in the 8.25-inch drift gillnet at the Big Eddy site is 61.02, which is below the historical average of 132.68. All CPUEs are current through June 16. As of June 16, the combined cumulative summer chum salmon CPUE for the 5.5-inch drift gillnet at the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites is 173.56, which is below the historical median of 762.63 for this date.

Operations at the LYTF have been altered from previous years, so caution should be taken when comparing current catch rates to historical catch rates. Any Chinook salmon healthy enough will

be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to village elders by the Tribal Councils.

Sonar Project near Pilot Station/ ADF&G

The Pilot Station sonar is operating well despite encountering intermittent debris as the water level drops. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 28,612 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 41,442 fish, but is similar to 2018 passage for this date. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be 13,741 fish, which is below the historical cumulative median of 155,521 fish. However, this passage estimate is similar to the historical cumulative median of 15,944 fish for years with late summer chum salmon run timing.

Anvik River Sonar / ADF&G

The Anvik River sonar began operations on the June 16. Passage estimates will be available in the next couple of days. The biological escapement goal for Anvik summer chum salmon is 350,000–700,000.

Management Strategy

Subsistence fishing times are being limited to half of the regulatory “windows” fishing schedule as the run progresses upriver. The reduced fishing schedule is intended to limit the harvest of Chinook salmon while more information about the timing and strength of the run is collected. The 2019 summer chum salmon run is expected to be similar in size to the 2018 run. Commercial summer chum openings may be further delayed based on chum run strength.

Current Subsistence Management

As a reminder to fishermen, dip nets are now a legal subsistence gear type and are allowed during subsistence salmon gillnet openings. During salmon fishing closures, fishermen may use only gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh. Subsistence fishermen may retain any Chinook salmon harvested in dip nets, gillnets and fish wheels, unless otherwise specified in the announcements. During commercial fishing periods for chum salmon with dip nets and beach seines, all king salmon must be released alive immediately.

South Coastal District (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62 degrees North latitude including the marine waters near Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay):

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

District 1 (Black River, South, Middle Mouth and North mouths, including Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik and Emmonak)

Subsistence fishing is on a reduced regulatory schedule consisting of two 18-hour periods per week from:

- **2 p.m. Tuesdays to 8 a.m. Wednesdays**
- **2 p.m. Fridays to 8 a.m. Saturdays**

District 2 (Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary’s, Pilot Station and Marshall):

Subsistence fishing is currently **on a reduced regulatory schedule consisting of two 18-hour periods per week from:**

- **2 p.m. Wednesdays to 8 a.m. Thursdays**
- **2 p.m. Saturdays to 8 a.m. Sundays**

District 3 (Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

Subsistence fishing is currently closed. Subsistence salmon fishing will reopen 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets on a reduced regulatory schedule consisting of two 18-hour periods per week from:

- **2 p.m. Wednesdays to 8 a.m. Thursdays**
- **2 p.m. Saturdays to 8 a.m. Sundays**

District 4-A (Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk): Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day.

Effective 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 19 subsistence fishing will close. Subsistence salmon fishing will reopen 6 p.m. Saturday, June 22 with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size on a reduced regulatory schedule consisting of two 24-hour periods per week from:

- **6 p.m. Saturdays to 6 p.m. Sundays**
- **6 p.m. Tuesdays to 6 p.m. Wednesdays**

Districts 4-B, 4-C and 5

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

Innoko, Koyukuk and Kantishna Rivers:

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

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River, which includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana) and the Old Minto Area:

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

Upper Tanana Area (the Tanana River from the confluence with the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank upstream to the Tanana River headwaters):

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

Subdistricts 6-C (Personal use fishery from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Personal use fishing is open on the regulatory fishing schedule of two 42-hour periods per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels:

- **6 p.m. Mondays to noon Wednesdays**

- **6 p.m. Fridays to noon Sundays**

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in portions of subdistricts 5-C and 5-D, and the Upper Tanana River drainage. The permit areas of Subdistrict 5-C and 5-D are from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

In the Tanana River up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A and 6-B) a subsistence permit is required for salmon fishing. A personal use permit is required to fish for salmon and other species from the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River (Subdistrict 6-C).

A subsistence permit is required for northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats. Subsistence harvest calendars and subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fairbanks office or online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/.

News releases, test fish catches, and sonar counts are also available on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/

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