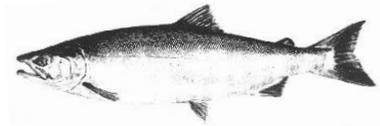


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
Jeff Estensen, Area Management Biologist
Christy Gleason, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Area Field Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, Alaska 99581
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**2016 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 47
Fall Update # 6, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery
Districts Affected: Yukon Area**

Fall Season Assessment

The current fall chum salmon estimated passage by the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station through August 28 is 984,000 fish, which is above the historical median of 640,000 fish for that date. The 2016 fall chum salmon total run size projection, based on inseason assessment, is for 1.4 million fish which includes the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station combined with harvests that occurred below the sonar. Because of the large size and timing of the third pulse, the overall run timing is now running later than average.

The first pulse of fall chum salmon that entered the Yukon River on July 18 is currently passing the border sonar. The second pulse of fall chum salmon entered the river on July 30 and is expected to be near the communities of Fort Yukon on August 29 and the Canadian border around September 5. The third pulse of fish began entering the Yukon River on August 10 and was sustained over nine days with the front end expected to be near Tanana/Huslia on August 29, near Fort Yukon on September 9, and near the Border on September 16. Another pulse lasting two days entered the Yukon River on August 20, and is expected to be near the communities of Anvik on August 29, Nulato on September 3, Tanana/Huslia on September 9, Fort Yukon on September 19 and the Canadian border around September 26. The upper river should see a fairly steady week long passage of fish from the third pulse.

On the Tanana River the third pulse would be expected to be in those areas around September 2 and September 5, and the fourth pulse would arrive to those areas around September 12 and September 15 respectively. The Tanana River should see increasing passage from the third and sustained through the fourth and fifth pulses of fish. Timing of the pulses has been adjusted some for slower travel rates due to the high water.

The coho salmon run projection, based on inseason assessment is for an above average return. The primary parent year for coho salmon this this season is from the escapements of 2012. The estimated coho salmon run size index (based on the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station and the downstream harvest) through August 28 is 240,000 fish, which is above average based on the historical median of 154,000 fish for that date. The average three-quarter date for coho salmon run size index is typically August 29 at the mainstem sonar. A first pulse of coho salmon arrived in the lower Yukon on August 14 and a second pulse arrived August 21. Coho salmon will also contribute to the Tanana River run.

Fall Assessment Projects

Lower Yukon River Cooperative Fall Drift Test Fishing/ADF&G, YDFDA

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through August 28 was 1,731.48, which is above the historical median of 1,249.15 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through August 28 was 321.27, which is below the historical median of 379.46 for this date.

Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing/Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through August 28 was 2,765.98, which is above the historical median of 1,706.14 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through August 28 was 612.84, which below the historical median of 786.20 for this date.

Sonar Project near Pilot Station/ADF&G

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through August 28 was 984,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 640,000 fish for this date. The cumulative coho salmon passage estimate through August 28 was 149,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 123,000 fish for this date.

Chandalar River Sonar USFWS

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through August 28 was 54,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 27,000 fish for this date.

Sonar Project near Eagle/ADF&G and DFO

The sonar transitioned to fall chum salmon passage estimates on August 18. The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through August 28 was 6,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 3,000 fish for this date.

Age Composition Fall Season/ADF&G

The preliminary fall chum salmon age composition from the LYTF 6-inch drift gillnets indicates the run is dominated by age-4 fish, which is typical. However, this year's age-4 component is well above average, indicating improved production of the 2012 parent year. The 2016 preliminary proportion of age-4 and age-5 fish is 79% and 18% respectively compared to the average of 64% age-4 and 34% age-5 fish based on a samples size of 778 through August 16. Females represent 55% of the 1,077 fish sampled which is below the average of 58% through August 28. Commercial samples through period 14 on August 23 include 48% female fall chum salmon and 49% female coho salmon.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) on the strata from August 8–21 that passed the mainstem sonar, which included the third pulse, contained approximately 6% summer chum and 94% fall chum salmon. The fall chum salmon stocks in the sample consisted of 30% Border/US (Chandalar/Sheenjek), 31% Canadian and 33% Tanana. Genetic samples of fall chum salmon taken at the mainstem sonar test fishery between August 22–25, representing the fourth pulse, were just sent to the laboratory and will be reported in next week's update.

Fall Season Management Strategy

The Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, 3, and Subdistrict 5-D as well as the Innoko and Koyukuk Rivers were initially placed on their full regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedules of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the fall season. As a result of the Chinook salmon restrictions put in place in the Yukon Area this season, the department increased the opportunity to harvest fall chum salmon for subsistence use. Subsistence salmon fishing has been liberalized to seven days per week, 24 hours per day in District 4 and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. District 6 currently remains on their standard regulatory schedules. Subsistence fishermen may use gillnets with 7.5 inch mesh or smaller during the fall season.

Porcupine River fall chum salmon stock abundance has been low in recent years when compared to other stocks in the Yukon River drainage. Fall chum salmon escapements into the Canadian Fishing Branch River, a tributary of the Porcupine River, have fallen short of meeting the escapement objective agreed upon by U.S. and Canadian representatives in 4 of the last 6 years despite other Yukon River stocks meeting or exceeding their escapement goals or objectives. Beginning Wednesday, August 31, subsistence fishing for salmon in the mainstem Porcupine River will close. Similar to the action taken last year, in an attempt to improve fall chum escapement into the spawning grounds in Canada, the department is closing subsistence salmon fishing in the Alaska portion of the mainstem Porcupine River.

Current Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Coastal District (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof and including all state marine waters):

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

District 1 (including the Black River) and **District 2**:

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after commercial fishing periods.

District 3:

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

Innoko River:

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

District 4 (from ¾ mile downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Illinois Creek, which includes all adjacent tributaries and the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena and Ruby):

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

Drift gillnet fishing is open **only in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek.** Drift gillnets may not exceed 25 fathoms in length.

Koyukuk River:

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

District 5 (from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, and Eagle):

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

Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 31, subsistence salmon fishing in the mainstem **Porcupine River** is closed for the remainder of the fall season. During this closure, fishermen may fish for non-salmon species using gear with a mesh size of 4 inches or less. Tributaries such as the Sheenjek, Black, Coleen, and Salmon Trout Rivers remain open.

A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the following locations:

Between the western tip of Garnet Island and the Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

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

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B is open for two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays, with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

The Kantishna River is open on its regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule of 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

The Old Minto area is open on its regulatory schedule of five days per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage. Permits are available from the ADF&G office in Fairbanks. Subsistence fishermen fishing in the upper portion of Subdistrict 6-B, from three miles upstream of the mouth of Totchaket Slough to Wood River, are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, please provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

Subdistricts 6-C (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 salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday and from 6:00 p.m. Monday until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesday. Fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

A reminder to fishermen that a personal use salmon fishing permit and a sport fish license are required to fish in Subdistrict 6-C of the Tanana River. Fishermen are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, please provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

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, including the communities of Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Northway, and the Tok area):

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

A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish in the Upper Tanana River Drainage.

Commercial Fishing:

Fall Season Commercial Salmon Fishing

The fall chum salmon commercial fishing season is open in Districts 1, 2, and 6 as well as Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C. Based on the above average return of fall chum salmon and inseason run assessment, the department provided multiple commercial fishing periods per week in Districts 1 and 2. The fall chum directed commercial fishery will end on August 31 by regulation in Districts 1 and 2, and commercial fishermen should standby for announcements regarding coho directed commercial fishing this week.

District 1, including the Set Net Only Area Commercial Fishing:

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest in District 1 through August 27 is 210,188 fall chum and 74,275 coho salmon.

District 2 Commercial Fishing:

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest in District 2 through August 27 is 190,844 fall chum and 37,328 coho salmon.

Subdistrict 5-B, and 5-C Commercial Fishing Schedule:

Commercial fishing in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week until further notice. Fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with 6 inch or smaller mesh size.

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest through August 29 is 2,106 fall chum salmon.

District 6 Commercial Fishing Schedule:

Commercial fishing in District 6 is open for two 42-hour fishing periods per week on the following schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels:

- 6:00 p.m. Mondays, until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays
- 6:00 p.m. Fridays, until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest through August 29 is 475 fall chum salmon.

All Yukon Area commercial fishermen should confirm their market prior to commercial fishing. Processors, catcher sellers, or direct marketers must notify the department of their intent to operate by contacting the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. All fish species harvested and not sold must be recorded on the fish ticket as “caught but not sold”.

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 **459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320, the ADF&G office in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 455-1849.

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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