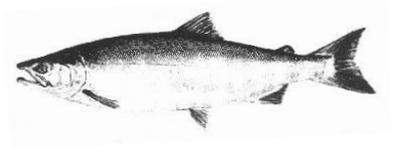


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Date Issued: 8/5/15
Time: 2:00 p.m.

**2015 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 17
Fall Announcement # 16, Yukon River District 1 Commercial Period 6
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area**

The 2015 fall chum salmon preseason run projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, is for a run size between 700,000 and 800,000 fish. This level of abundance should be sufficient to provide for escapement, an above average subsistence harvest, and a surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes.

The estimated fall chum salmon passage past the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station through August 4 is 210,300 fish, which is above the historical median of 195,500 fish for that date. A first pulse of approximately 100,000 fall chum salmon finished passing the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station on July 22. Since the first pulse fall chum salmon entry into Yukon River has been relatively steady, with a second smaller group of fall chum salmon approximately 40,000 fish in size having just finished passing the mainstem sonar on August 1. Inseason assessment is currently in line with the estimated run size for fall chum salmon.

District 1 Commercial Schedule:

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in in the **Set Net Only Area** of District 1 on Thursday, August 6 from 2:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. This will be a 9-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh size.

The remainder of District 1 will be open to commercial fishing on Thursday, August 6 from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

Preliminary reports from the District 1 commercial opening on August 2 indicate a harvest of 15,563 fall chum and 3,834 coho salmon from 183 permit holders. The preliminary cumulative commercial fall chum harvest for District 1 is 37,363 fall chum salmon and 4,807 coho salmon.

District 1 Subsistence Fishing Schedule:

Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 is open during the fall season 7 days per week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches, except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. In District 1, subsistence salmon fishing will close at 2:00 a.m. Thursday, August 6, and reopen at 11:00 a.m. Friday, August 7.

Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon closures.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 and 459-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks 1-866-479-7387). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

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

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