

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 24
Summer Announcement # 19, Yukon River District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The preseason outlook for the 2015 summer chum salmon run is projected to be 1.8 to 2.4 million fish and is anticipated to provide for escapement, a normal subsistence harvest level, and a commercially harvestable surplus in the range of 800,000 to 1,400,000 fish. Currently, the summer chum salmon run is tracking slightly below the preseason outlook, but is still expected to be average in size.

The sonar project near Pilot Station estimated approximately 40,240 fish in the first pulse of summer chum salmon that passed the project starting June 8. These summer chum salmon are expected to reach Galena approximately June 26 and Ruby on June 28. Therefore, subsistence salmon fishing opportunity is being provided Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C with dip nets and live-release fish wheels to begin harvesting this early portion of the summer chum salmon run as the stocks migrate into the area.

Fishermen should be aware that this subsistence salmon opening is still very early in the summer chum salmon run and catches may initially be low. All lower river subsistence fishermen that attempted to fish with dip nets during this first pulse of summer chum salmon reported that fishing was very slow to start. A larger group of summer chum salmon totaling approximately 98,000 fish is not expected to reach Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C until July 4. Fishermen in the lower river have reported better dip net harvests on this second, larger group of summer chum salmon.

The first pulse of Chinook salmon is expected to be migrating through Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C from June 23–June 25. Subsistence fishermen are required to safely release incidentally caught Chinook salmon back to the water alive immediately from both dip nets and fish wheels. Great care should be taken to make sure Chinook salmon are released quickly and unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully. The department encourages subsistence fishermen to report their harvest information. These reports are useful for managing this early portion of the summer chum salmon run.

District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules:

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

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed to conserve Chinook salmon. All gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length may be used during the closure to harvest non-salmon species. If a salmon is caught in this gear type, it is legal to retain it. However, this opportunity to harvest non-salmon species may be reduced or discontinued if found that this gear is being used to target Chinook salmon. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, subsistence salmon fishing will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip nets and live-release fish wheels.

Subsistence dip net fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive. Fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation, or be equipped with a live box that must be checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released alive from fish wheels. The requirement to release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types will be strictly enforced.

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

Subsistence salmon fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with dip nets and live-release fish wheels. Additionally, subsistence salmon fishing for summer chum salmon in the **Anvik River Special Management Area** (which includes the lower 12 miles of the Anvik River) is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with dip nets and beach seine gear only.

Subsistence dip net and beach seine fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types. Fish wheels must be manned at all times of operation, or be equipped with a live box that must be checked at least once every six hours. All Chinook salmon must be released alive from fish wheels. The requirement to release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types will be strictly enforced.

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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