

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 70
Summer Announcement # 61, Yukon River Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C
Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area**

The 2015 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run is projected to be weaker than anticipated. However, Chinook salmon passage estimates at the Eagle sonar project are promising. Through July 14, approximately 15,700 Chinook salmon have been counted at the sonar project, which is above the historical average of 5,000 for this early date. In an effort to provide a small subsistence harvest during this time of Chinook salmon conservation, a gillnet subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size is scheduled in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C starting Thursday, July 16. Fishermen may also use fish wheels which are not required to be manned or have a live box during this opening.

Gillnets are being restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to reduce the harvest of large, female Chinook salmon headed to spawning areas in Canada. Fishermen are encouraged to contact the department and report their subsistence harvest during this opening. These harvest reports help provide information on run timing and run strength and can help direct future management actions in the upper river.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence 6-inch Gillnet Period:

(from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek to the ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles downstream of Waldron Creek):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective at 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, July 16, subsistence salmon fishing will open for one 24-hour period in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels. The period is as follows:

- 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, July 16, until 12:00 p.m. noon Friday, July 17

Chinook salmon caught in the 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence purposes.

After the close of this subsistence fishing period, subsistence salmon fishing will close beginning 12:00 p.m. noon Friday, July 17, in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh size must be removed from the water. Gillnets with 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. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

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 Anchorage at 267-2217 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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