



Advisory Announcement

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Toll free fishing schedule and counts: 866-479-7387

2024 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #2 **Coastal District, Districts 1 and 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Spring breakup and flooding conditions in the Yukon Area have impacted many communities this year and we acknowledge the hardship this has caused residents along the river as they prepare for spring and summer subsistence activities. We hope that river conditions improve soon so that fishing efforts for sheefish and other nonsalmon species are successful.

The 2024 Chinook salmon run size is forecasted to be well below average, and may be as low or lower than the run last year. The run is unlikely to meet escapement objectives or provide any surplus for harvest. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach this season, subsistence fishing closures will start based on historic Chinook salmon run timing. This is intended to protect all Chinook salmon stocks while they migrate upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. Chinook salmon are typically caught in the Lower Yukon Test Fishery at Emmonak in early June. Therefore, salmon fishing will close June 1 in the Coastal District and District 1. Salmon fishing will close on June 3 in District 2 to account for run timing between districts. Opportunity to harvest nonsalmon will be allowed with 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets. If you are catching Chinook salmon in a 4-inch gillnet, please move your net to protect them. Later in the season, the use of 4-inch gillnets will be closed for a two-week period in order to reduce any incidental catch of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon.

The summer chum salmon run will be assessed as it enters the river. The forecast is for a run of 550,000 to 1,800,000 fish. When the summer chum salmon run is projected to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal (at least 500,000 fish), and when summer chum salmon outnumber Chinook salmon, fishing opportunities with selective gear types may be announced. The last few years (since 2019), the summer chum salmon run has been entering the river up to a week late, and the midpoint of the run at Pilot Station Sonar has been around July 3.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates) and shared during the YRDFA teleconferences. The first teleconference will be Tuesday, **June 4 at 1:00 p.m. (Alaska time). Call in number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#**

The ADF&G Emmonak office will be open regular hours beginning on June 3: Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office: 1-907-949-1320.

Subsistence Management Actions

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used during salmon fishing closures to target nonsalmon. Fishermen are reminded to set this gear in areas where nonsalmon species are abundant to avoid incidentally harvesting salmon. While any salmon caught in this gear may be kept, if it appears Chinook salmon are

being targeted with this gear, it could be further restricted. Fishermen are encouraged to set their nets in areas where they will not catch Chinook salmon, and to release any Chinook salmon that are still alive.

Coastal District and District 1 (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 1, Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

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

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

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 3, Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Other gear types for nonsalmon species include hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. **Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.**

In the Coastal District and Districts 1 and 2, gillnets may not be submerged during ice free months. Gillnets must have visible floating corks and be marked with a keg or buoy that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address.

Federal Special Action

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have coordinated on this advisory announcement. The USFWS Federal Inseason Manager has issued a separate Federal special action FSA 2-KS-01-24 with the same fishing schedule that restricts fishing to federally qualified subsistence users in waters adjacent to Federal Land. To reach the USFWS Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, call Holly Carroll at 907-351-3029.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G and the USFWS. Federal Special Actions will be posted on www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions.

ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/ and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG.

