



Advisory Announcement

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #1

Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) research and management staff have worked closely with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff to develop this year's management strategy. Feedback has been sought from stakeholders, agency staff and leadership. Fishery outlooks and management have been discussed in depth at the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association public preseason fishermen's meeting, the Yukon River Panel spring meeting, and the Federal Special Action Hearing.

The drainagewide Chinook salmon outlook is for a run size of 72,000 fish with a range of 58,000 to 88,000 fish (Figure 1), and the Canada-origin Chinook salmon run size outlook is for a run of 24,000 to 37,000 fish. Taking into account recent trends of fewer Canadian-origin Chinook salmon making it upriver, border passage is projected to be between 12,000 to 32,000 fish. These run sizes are well below average, and it is likely no escapement goals will be met this year for Chinook salmon in Alaska or Canada. Fishing for Chinook salmon will be closed to help conserve fish in these low runs.

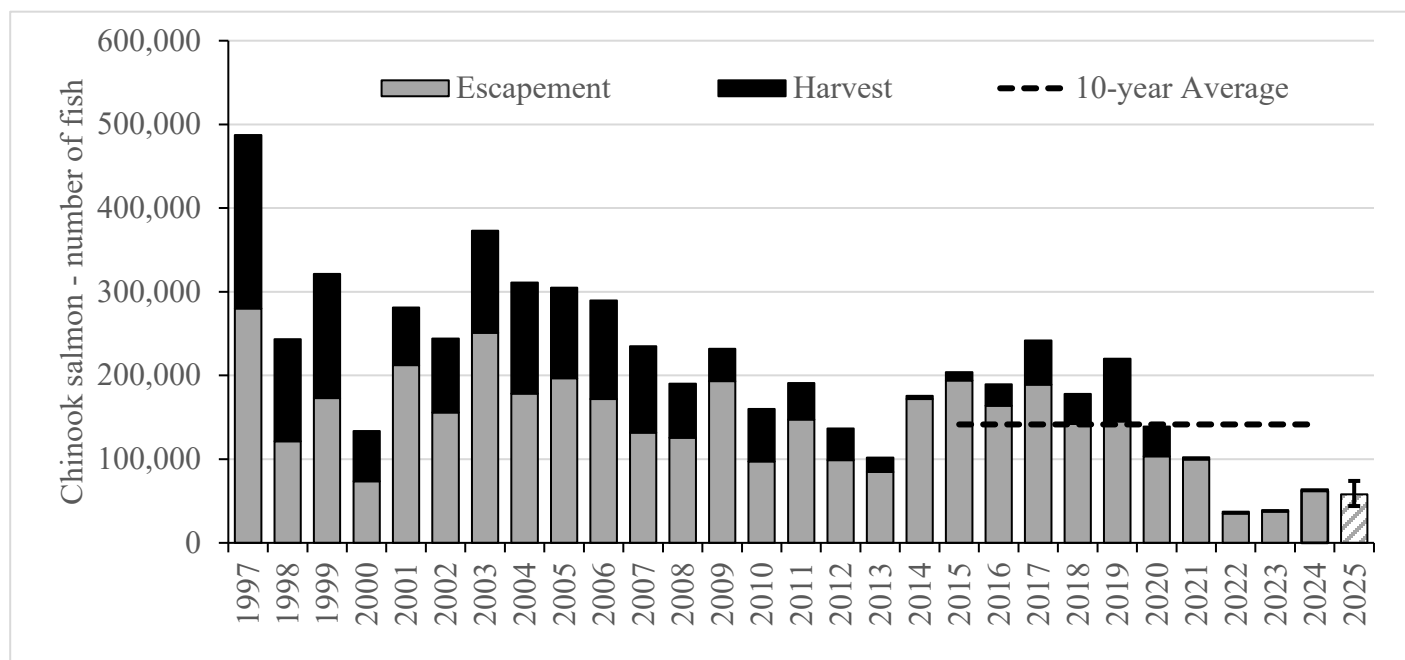


Figure 1. Chinook salmon total run. The dashed line is the recent 10-year average run size of ~141,000 Chinook salmon. The 2025 striped bar represents the approximate midpoint of the drainagewide outlook range (72,000 fish). At run sizes below 150,000 fish, escapement goals tend not to be met.

The drainagewide summer chum salmon outlook is for a run size of 1,100,000 fish, with a range of 550,000 to 1,800,000 fish (Figure 2). Last year, the summer chum salmon run came in below the midpoint of the preseason forecast, with a total run near 800,000 fish. We anticipate meeting or exceeding the lower end of the drainagewide summer chum salmon goal again this year, however there is concern due to the historically low parent year returns in 2021. Fishing for summer chum salmon will likely occur with selective gear types, and all Chinook salmon must be released alive.

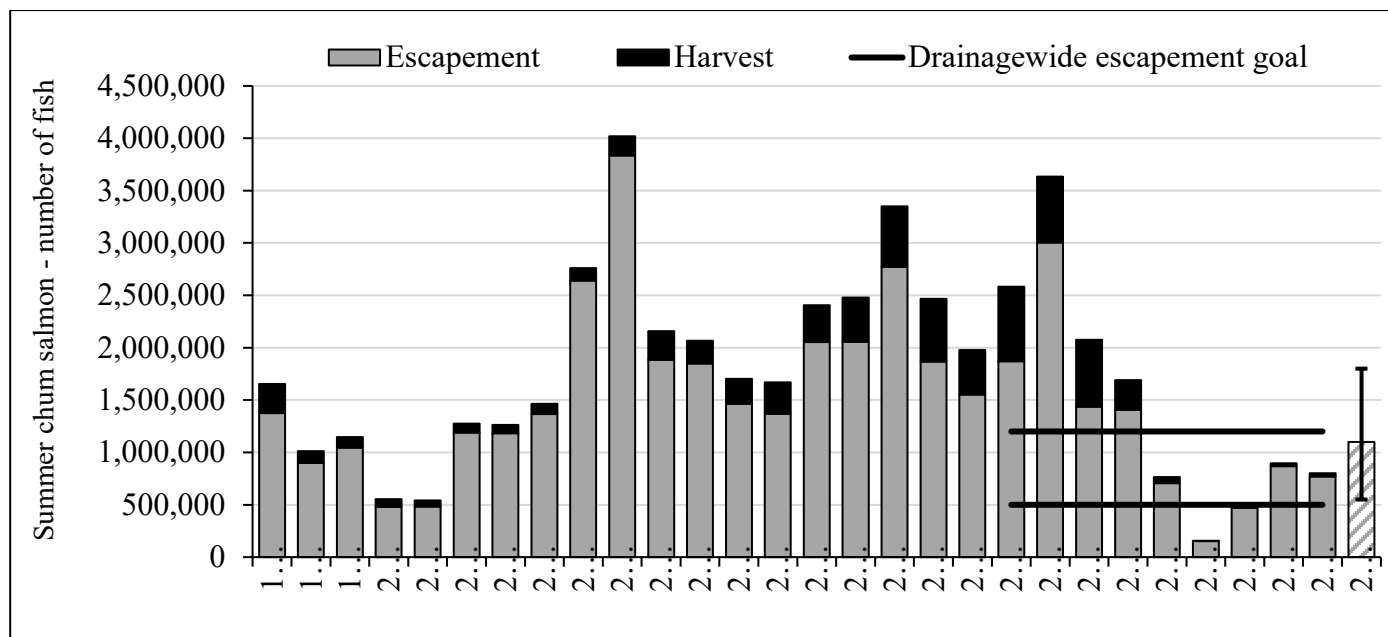


Figure 2. Summer chum salmon total run with drainagewide escapement goal range shown in the solid black lines. The 2025 striped bar represents the approximate midpoint of the outlook range (1,100,000 fish).

The drainagewide fall chum salmon outlook is for a run size of 218,000 fish, with a range of 114,000 to 322,000 fish (Figure 3).

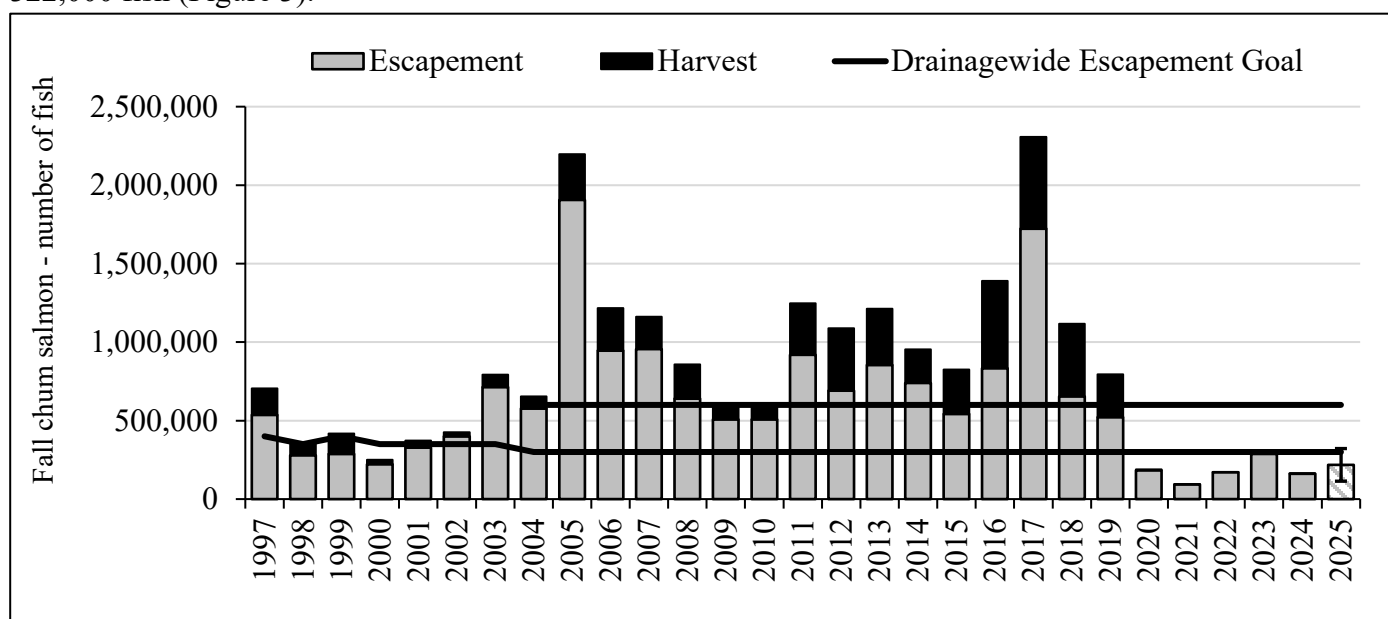


Figure 3. Fall chum salmon total run with drainagewide escapement goal ranges shown in the solid black lines. The 2025 striped bar represents the approximate midpoint of the outlook range.

Management Strategies based on the preseason outlooks and inseason assessment:

- Starting on June 1 in District 1 and the Coastal District, subsistence salmon fishing will close. Closures in upriver districts will be announced based on Chinook salmon travel time.
- Fishing for nonsalmon species with 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets will be allowed during salmon fishing closures; however, net length will be reduced to a maximum of 60 feet. Fishermen should set their 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in traditional nonsalmon harvest locations and avoid incidental harvest of salmon.
- To further conserve Chinook salmon, all gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, will be closed during the bulk of the Chinook salmon run from approximately the first quarter point to the third quarter point. Closures to nonsalmon gillnets are meant to reduce incidental catch of Chinook salmon and the timing of this closure in each area will be based on Chinook salmon run timing. Nonsalmon fishing opportunities may be provided in fall to offset this loss of nonsalmon fishing time in the summer season.
- Other nonsalmon gear types, including hook and line, longline, jigging gear, hand line, beach seine, fyke net, or spear may be used to fish for nonsalmon species all year, even during gillnet closures. Chinook salmon should be avoided and released alive if incidentally caught.
- Inseason, if confidence is high that the summer chum salmon run is projected to meet the drainagewide escapement goal, subsistence fishing opportunities for summer chum salmon with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels) will be allowed. Summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained from selective gear. This is an odd year, and the pink salmon run is expected to be lower than in even years. All Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types.
- The sport fishery for Chinook salmon is closed throughout the Tanana River drainage and the U.S. portion of the Yukon River drainage (Sport Fishery Emergency Orders published March 18, 2025).
- During the fall season, it is likely both U.S. and Canadian-origin fall chum salmon runs will be below the escapement objectives. Coho salmon runs are also projected to be poor. Subsistence salmon closures are expected drainagewide to protect fall chum and coho salmon.
- In order to reduce incidental harvest of fall chum in nonsalmon gillnets, fishermen can expect that in fall season, 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets must be removed from the water for 4 days per week and will only be open for nonsalmon fishing on the weekends.
- Nonsalmon lakes and rivers may be open for 6-inch or smaller mesh in fall season to increase opportunities to harvest large whitefish.
- If run sizes are poor, subsistence fishing restrictions may remain in effect until October 1 in the lower river. This date will be transitioned upriver based on salmon migration timing.

The management team recognizes the severe hardship of another season of closures for Chinook and fall chum salmon. We are confident that the sacrifices being made now will help salmon to recover. We encourage fishermen to harvest more abundant salmon and nonsalmon species when and where available.

Nonsalmon harvest information

We have heard some concerns about the abundance and harvests of nonsalmon species for subsistence. Estimated harvests of nonsalmon species, particularly whitefish, have been below average in recent years. This may be due to numerous factors, including lack of gear, reduced fishing due to salmon closures, high gas prices, etc. However, the estimated harvests of pike and sheefish have remained near average. Pilot Station

sonar estimates of nonsalmon passage have remained consistent and have not shown the same declines as the salmon runs.

Each year, hundreds of salmon are incidentally harvested in nonsalmon gear. Closures to nonsalmon gear in the summer season, and weekend fishing schedule for nonsalmon gillnets in the fall season are being taken in order to reduce the number of salmon being harvested in nonsalmon gillnets. Some fishermen are also concerned about salmon being caught in nonsalmon gear and then dying and dropping out. The restrictions described above should also reduce this. We encourage fishermen to set their nonsalmon gillnets in areas where salmon do not migrate, to check their gear often, and to move their gear if salmon are being killed.

For more information about nonsalmon, please contact the ADF&G offices in Fairbanks or Emmonak.

Contact Information, Updates, and Outreach

Announcements and daily test fishery counts will be posted on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/

Toll-free Fishing Schedule and Fish Counts hotline: 1-866-479-7387

Inseason counts from some projects are also available on the ADF&G website:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareayukon.salmon#fishcounts>

The ADF&G Emmonak office will be open beginning on June 4; Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Saturdays and Sundays).

ADF&G Emmonak office: 1-907-949-1320.

ADF&G: Summer Season Area Manager, Deena Jallen; Acting Fall Season Area Manager, Matt Olson.

ADF&G Fairbanks office: 1-907-459-7274.

USFWS: Yukon River Subsistence manager, Holly Carroll, 1-907-351-3029.

If you see something odd in your salmon or nonsalmon, like a disease or parasite, please contact the **Fish Pathology** lab. Pictures are helpful. Please contact Jayde Ferguson (jayde.ferguson@alaska.gov) or call: 907-267-2394.

Information about common fish diseases can be found in this publication:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/disease/pdfs/fish_disease_book.pdf

For commercial fishery permit questions please see the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission website here:

www.cfec.state.ak.us/.

In-season salmon management teleconferences hosted by YRDFA will take place Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. starting on June 10. The call-in number is 1-800-315-6338, and the participation code is Yukon# (98566#).



This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Announcements will be shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG

