



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #5 **Subdistricts 4-B, 4-C and Koyukuk River Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

Based on travel timing of early Chinook salmon, fishing will close starting on June 16 in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C, and June 20 in the Koyukuk River. These closures are intended to protect all Chinook salmon stocks while they migrate upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada.

Opportunity to harvest nonsalmon will be allowed with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets during salmon closures. If Chinook salmon are being caught in a 4-inch gillnet, fishermen are encouraged to move their net to protect them. Later in the season, 4-inch gillnets will be closed to protect the bulk of the Chinook salmon run from incidental harvest. The Chinook salmon run size for 2025 is forecasted to be well below average and may be similar in size to the run last year. A run of this size is unlikely to meet escapement objectives or provide any surplus for harvest.

The summer chum salmon forecast is for a run of 550,000 to 1,800,000 fish, however there is a lot of uncertainty about this year's run due to the low returns from the parent years. When the inseason projection meets the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal (of at least 500,000 fish) fishing opportunities with selective gear types will be announced. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) caught its first summer chum salmon on June 2.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). Daily sonar passage estimates, and LYTF test fish numbers will be shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG) and on the toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Saturdays and Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office can be reached at: 1-907-949-1320.

Weekly teleconferences hosted by YR DFA 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#).

Subsistence Management Actions

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used during salmon fishing closures to target nonsalmon species. Fishermen are reminded to set this gear in areas where they will avoid incidental harvest of salmon. Salmon that are caught in this gear may be kept. However, if it appears that Chinook salmon are being targeted with this gear, these opportunities will be further restricted. Fishermen are encouraged to release any Chinook salmon that are still alive.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (including Galena and Ruby):

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 16, 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.

Koyukuk River (including Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, and Coldfoot):

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. Friday, June 20, 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.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman. Gillnet gear in the permit area must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size and cannot be used from June 30 to August 20.

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

As a general reminder, gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. In District 4 and the Koyukuk River, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence fishing during ice-free months, however submerged nets must have a visible buoy or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net, plus a third float in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length.

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 Fishery special action FSA 2-KS-04-25 closing Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing and restricting nonsalmon gillnets 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.

