



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #16

Summer Update #3, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The Chinook salmon run appears well below average and unlikely to meet escapement objectives. The 2025 Chinook salmon run is close to the historical midpoint (June 25) and currently tracking below the preseason forecast and similar to the poor runs observed in 2000, 2023, and 2024.

The summer chum salmon run is being assessed as it enters the river. Catch rates in LYTF have continued to be slow with between 0 to 5 fish caught at each site. The 2025 summer chum salmon run appears to be entering the river near the lower end of the forecast range and the drainagewide escapement goal range (500,000 to 1.2 million fish). In recent years, the summer chum run has been about 3-8 days late. This year's run timing appears to be closer to normal run timing, however it is still early in the run and difficult to determine run timing. By this date the summer chum run has usually reached the first quarter point.

Salmon fishing closures have been announced in all districts and subdistricts of the Yukon River and tributaries to protect the low Chinook salmon run as it migrates upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada.

Closures of all gillnets (including 4-inch or less mesh) are being implemented to further protect Chinook and summer chum salmon from incidental harvest. To date, these closures have been announced up through Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. Fishermen should standby for announcements in their area of closures of salmon and nonsalmon gear.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). Daily sonar passage estimates and LYTF test fish numbers are 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 YRDFA will take place on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. The call-in number is 1-800-315-6338, and the participation code is Yukon# (98566#).

Assessment Projects

All assessment data is updated through June 23.

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF)/ADF&G and YDFDA

Summer chum salmon drifts with 5.5-inch gillnets began on June 2 at Big Eddy and June 3 at Middle Mouth sites. As of June 23, the cumulative CPUE is 225.60 which is below the historic cumulative CPUE of 1099.07.

To reduce mortalities, LYTF discontinued the Chinook salmon test fishery again this year. Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to communities.

Data collected from summer chum salmon will include Age, Sex, and Length (ASL). A few summer chum salmon caught in LYTF will also be sampled this year for other fish health research.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 4 and are operating as expected. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be 70,125 ± 5,656 fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative median of 452,090 fish. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 20,476 ± 4,392 fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical all year cumulative median of 78,975 fish.

All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery (PSSTF) will be sampled for age, sex, length and genetics. Additional biological sampling will be conducted for all Chinook salmon test fish mortalities as part of a broad collaborative effort to better understand salmon health and potential drivers of *en route* mortality and low productivity.

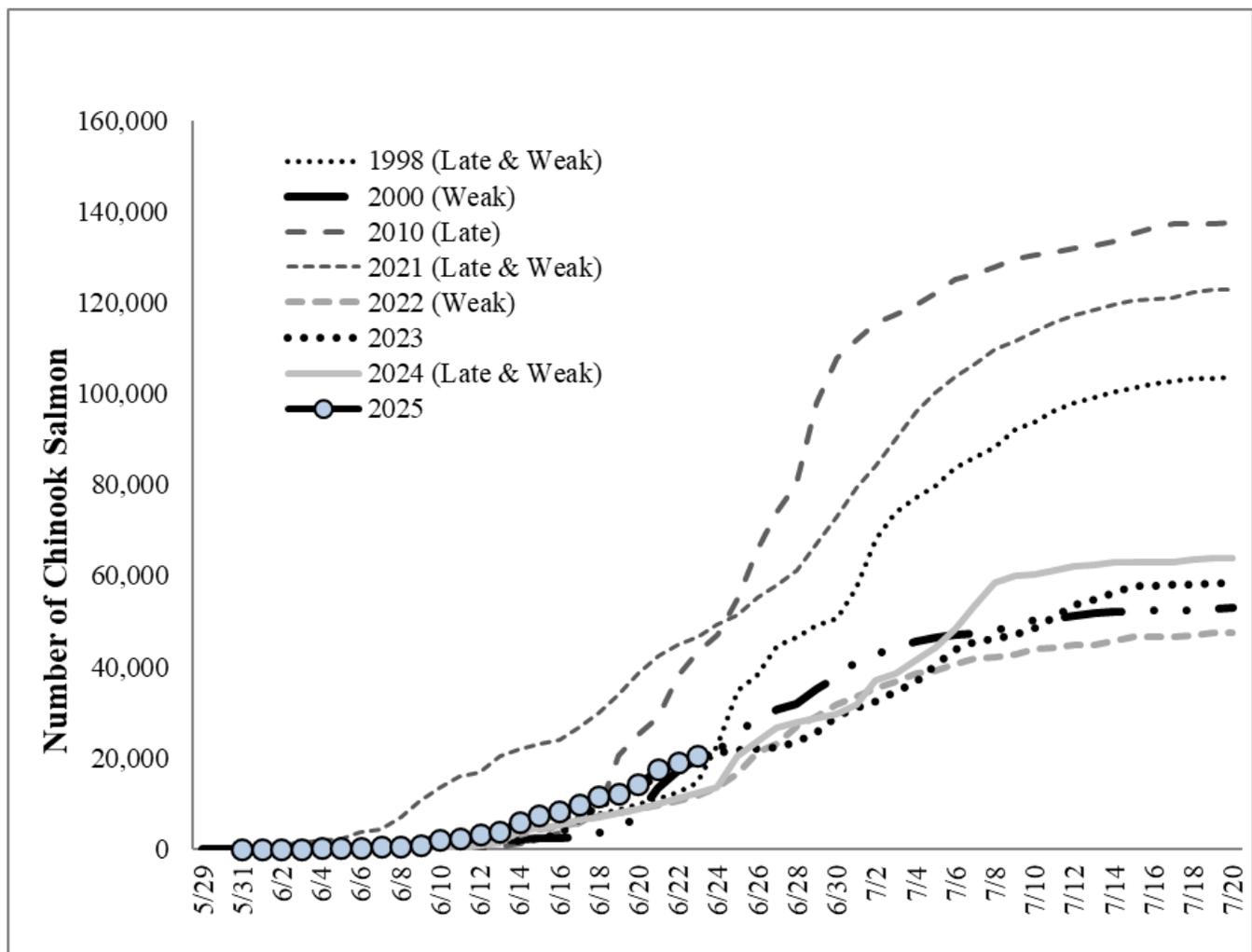


Figure 1. 2025 Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

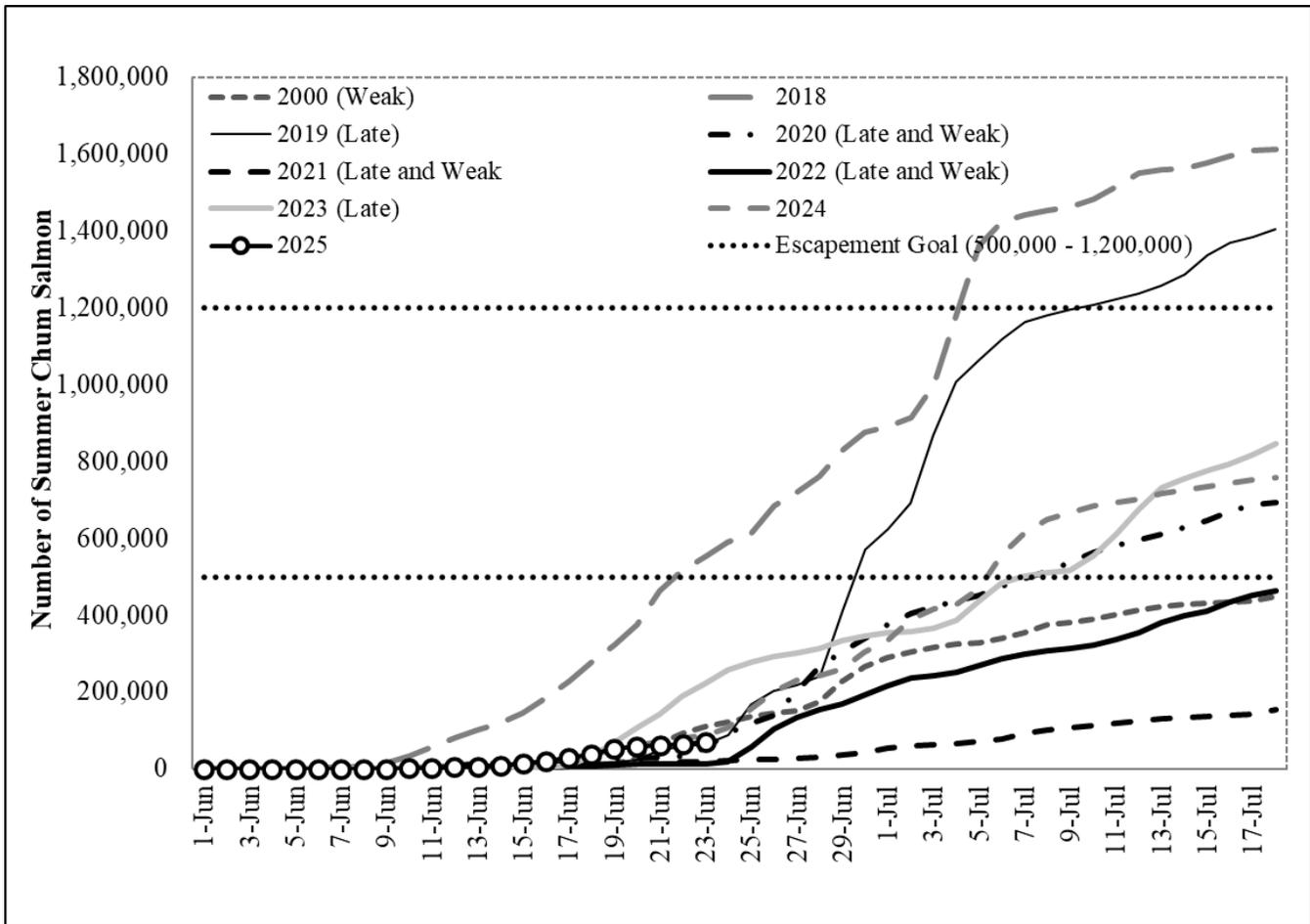


Figure 2. 2025 Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

Anvik Sonar (ADFG)

Sonar operations began on June 16. Summer chum passage is estimated to be 827 ± 89 fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 3,265 fish.

Alaska-based projects that will begin operations later this summer:

Eagle Sonar, Salcha River Tower, and Chena River Tower/Sonar (ADF&G).

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 123 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through June 20 was 22% age-4, which compares to a historical average of 36% for this date. The age-5 component made up 74% of the samples, which compares to a historical average of 61% for this date. Of the samples, 4% were age-6 fish, which compares to the historical average of 3% for this date. The age-4 fish average length of 548 mm and the age-5 average length of 570 mm are both similar compared to average (2015–2024). Female summer chum salmon comprised 54% of the samples which is similar to the historical average (2015–2024) of 57%.

General subsistence gear reminders

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

Gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. Fishwheels must have first initial, last name, and address legibly inscribed on the side of the wheel facing mid-channel. In Districts 3-6, 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.

Current Subsistence Management Actions by District or Subdistrict

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):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 3.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Saturday, July 5.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

District 3 (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 8.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Innoko River (including Shageluk):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, including Grayling and Anvik):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed; 4-inch and smaller mesh nets may not be used until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to the tip of Cone Point, including Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 27 until 8 p.m. Monday, July 14, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

Salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, June 29 until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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

Salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, June 29 until 8 p.m. Wednesday July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot. Gillnet gear in the permit area must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size. Fishing with gillnets in the permit area will close at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 29 and will not reopen until August 20.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (from Illinois Creek to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek including Tanana and Rampart):

Salmon fishing is closed. Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week, with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, July 3 until 8 p.m. Sunday July 20, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed, but it is limited to nonlethal or selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in portions of Subdistricts 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area)

Subdistrict 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 27, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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 permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-D Lower from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the mouth of Dall River.

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough, including the Porcupine River, all other adjacent tributaries, and the communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 30, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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.

In Birch Creek and the subsistence area of Beaver Creek below Moose Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 4 inches.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Circle and Eagle):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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 permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

Subdistrict 6-A and Kantishna River (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, and Manley):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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.

In Lake Minchumina, effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

Subdistrict 6-B and Old Minto Area (from eastern edge of the Kantishna River upstream to the Wood River, including Minto and Nenana):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 27, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 27, subsistence fishing is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Note, a subsistence pike permit is required, see details below.

Upper Tanana Area (the Tanana River from the confluence with the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank upstream to the Tanana River headwaters, including Delta Junction area, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Northway, and Nabesna):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 1, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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.

Fishermen are reminded that a subsistence permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A, 6-B, and Kantishna River drainage), northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage (including Minto Flats), and all species in the Upper Tanana Area. A subsistence salmon permit is not required in Lake Minchumina. Subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fairbanks office 907-459-7274 or online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/.

Personal Use Management Actions

Subdistrict 6-C (Personal use fishery from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Personal Use salmon fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels for two 42-hour periods per week from:

6 p.m. Fridays to 12 p.m. (noon) Sundays

6 p.m. Mondays to 12 p.m. (noon) Wednesdays.

Effective 12 p.m. (noon) Sunday, June 29, Personal Use salmon fishing is closed and periods are cancelled until further notice.

Personal Use Whitefish and Sucker Fishing

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (a portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Wood River upstream to the mouth of the Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank, which includes Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, and Delta Junction):

Personal Use whitefish and sucker fishing with gillnets and fish wheels follows the Subdistrict 6-C Personal Use salmon fishing schedule and will close at 12 p.m. (noon) Sunday, June 29 until further notice. Fishing with other gear for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, subject to permit stipulations.

A reminder to personal use fishermen that a personal use salmon permit is required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C and a personal use whitefish and sucker permit is required to fish for these species in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. Both permits require a valid sport fishing license.

Subsistence harvest calendars and subsistence and personal use fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fairbanks office 907-459-7274 or online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/.

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

separate Fishery special actions with the same fishing restrictions and schedule 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.

