



Advisory Announcement

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #5

Fall Update #2, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2025 fall chum salmon preseason projection, based on the relationship between summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon run sizes, is for a run size of less than 200,000 fish. If the run comes in as projected, it will not meet the drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000–600,000 fish. As outlined in the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, the projected run size must exceed 300,000 fish to allow subsistence salmon fishing. In addition, the run is not anticipated to be large enough to meet the Canadian treaty objectives for fall chum salmon, which are 70,000–104,000 fish in the mainstem Yukon River and 22,000–49,000 fish in the Fishing Branch River.

Coho salmon typically enter the Yukon River in mid-August with the bulk of the run passing the Lower Yukon Test Fishery between August 16 and 26. The primary parent year for coho salmon this year is from the lowest run on record, which occurred in 2021 with an estimated escapement of 46,000 fish. Therefore, the run is expected to be well below the average of 216,000 fish.

As both the fall chum and coho salmon runs are anticipated to be well below average, subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon will be restricted as they arrive in each area and nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch gillnets and manned fish wheels will be reduced to protect migrating salmon. Assessment projects will continue to monitor the run throughout the migration to determine if there is enough improvement to allow increased fishing opportunity.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). To subscribe to these updates, fill out the form on the following website:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.search>

Daily sonar passage estimates, and LYTF test fish numbers are shared on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG) and can be heard by calling toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387.

Weekly teleconferences hosted by YRDFA 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#).

Fall Assessment ProjectsLower Yukon Test Fishery/ADF&G and YDFDA

Fall season operations began on July 16 using 6-inch mesh gear to target fall chum and coho salmon. As of July 27, the fall chum salmon cumulative CPUE was 51.40, which is below the average of 223.44 for this date. The first quarter point based on median run timing occurs on August 2 for fall chum salmon at this project.

Data collected from chum and coho salmon will include Age, Sex, and Length (ASL). A portion of the fall chum and coho salmon caught in LYTF will also be sampled for other fish health research. All retained salmon will be distributed to local communities.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project operated near Pilot Station transitioned to fall season on July 19. As of July 27, the cumulative passage is approximately 48,000 fall season chum salmon. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 124,000 fall season chum salmon for this date. The first quarter point based on median run timing occurs on July 30 for fall chum salmon at this project. The first coho salmon was caught on July 24 in the fishery test at this site.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

This sonar project typically begins August 8 to count fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar / ADF&G

This sonar project typically begins August 8 to count fall chum salmon.

Eagle Sonar / ADF&G and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

This project will transition from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon in August.

Porcupine River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This project will transition from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon in August.

Fishing Branch River Weir/Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This project will begin counting fall chum salmon sometime in late August or early September.

Fall Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 47 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 16–24, consisted of 74% age-4 and 26% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 58% age-4 and 41% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon from July 16–27 was 49% which is near the 2001–2024 historical average of 50%. The average length of 572 mm is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 581 mm through July 27.

Summer Season Assessment

The Chinook and summer chum salmon runs are complete in the lower river and management has transitioned to fall season in the lower river districts. Assuming late run timing, the midpoint of the Chinook salmon run is projected to reach the sonar project located near Eagle on July 29. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is below average, but larger than what was observed in 2012 and 2022–2024 on this date. Current projections indicate that the border passage goal of 71,000 will not be met. Passage of Chinook salmon at all U.S. assessment projects are well below average and escapement goals are unlikely to be met.

The preliminary estimate of the 2025 summer chum salmon run size is less than 400,000 fish, well below the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1.2 million fish, and below the preseason forecast. Summer chum salmon total run size and escapement will be estimated later this year after final

assessment project and subsistence harvest estimates are available. One possible explanation for the lower-than-expected run size is the poor return of age-4 fish from the 2021 brood year, the lowest run on record.

Summer Assessment Projects

All assessment data is updated through July 28.

Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Operations ended July 26. Cumulative passage was $47,255 \pm 694$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which was below the median cumulative passage of 444,581 fish. One or both sonar pods were pulled between June 28 and July 3 and again on July 17 due to high water. Counts at this project should be considered a minimum estimate.

Chena Tower/sonar (ADF&G)

Visual counts from the Chena Tower began on June 30. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 861 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 4,764 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 775 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 2,378 fish.

Salcha Tower (ADF&G)

Visual counts began on July 3 after delays due to forest fires. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 1,417 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 6,602 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 1,155 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 3,927 fish.

Eagle Sonar (ADF&G)

The Sonar project was fully operational as of July 1. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 12,577 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 32,921 fish.

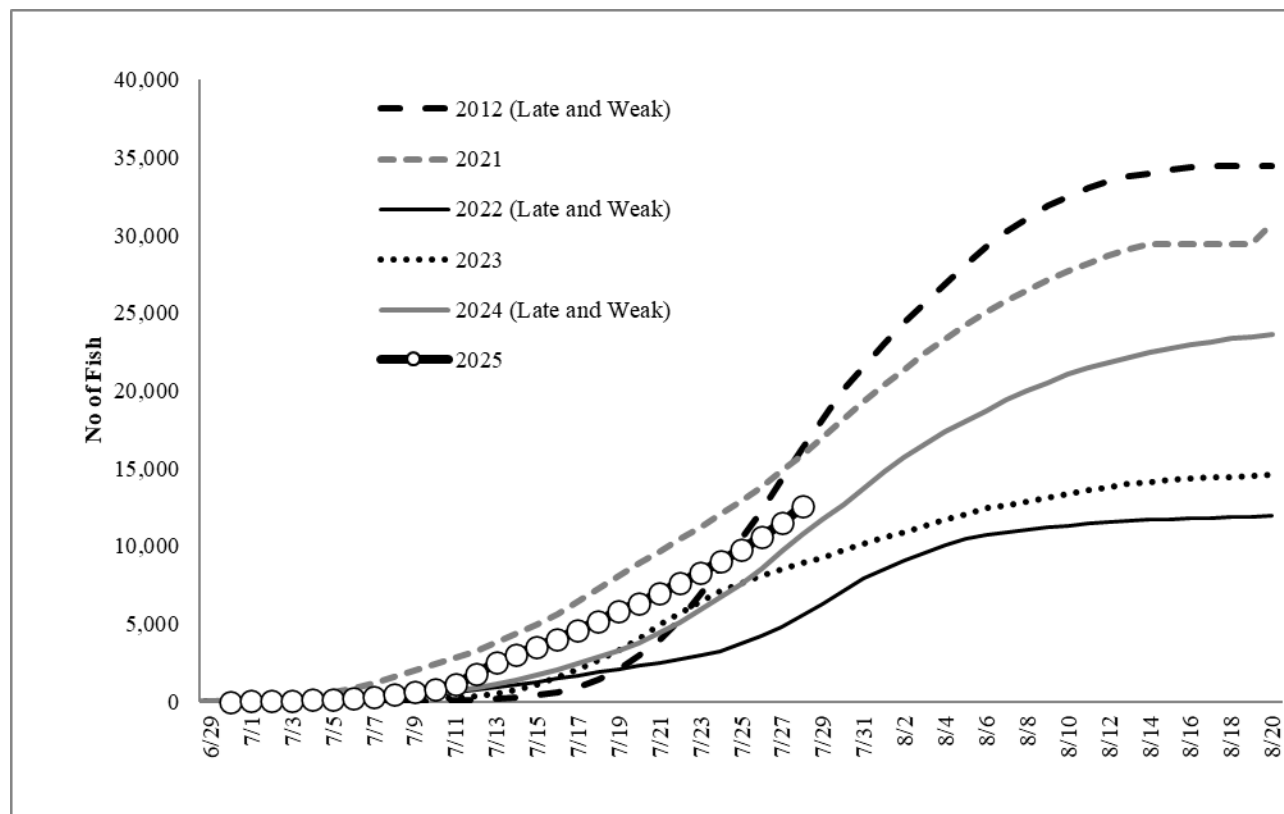


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Eagle sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025. Summer Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 321 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery through July 18 was 18% age-4, 65% age-5, 16% age-6 and 2% age-7 fish. The percentage of age-4 and age-5 fish were above average, while age-6 fish were below average. Chinook salmon within each age class were smaller than the recent 10-year average with the exception of age 7 fish. The average length of 695 mm across all age classes is smaller than the recent 10-year average length of 733 mm.

Stock Identification

The third stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery (from July 4–18) consisted of 99% summer stocks. Of those, 50% were bound for lower river, 30% were bound for the middle river, and 20% were bound for the Tanana River. The lower summer stocks were below average while the middle river and Tanana components were above average for this time period. The fourth stratum of chum genetics samples will be sent to the lab later this week, look for the results in future ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe:

<https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>

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. **Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive. At the start of the fall season in each district, fall chum and coho salmon must also be released alive.**

Gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. Fish wheels 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 floats attached to both ends of the net.

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, and 3 and the Innoko River (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Emmonak, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross and Shageluk):

Subsistence fishing for chum, coho, and Chinook salmon is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels may be used to target nonsalmon from **12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays, through 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays, until further notice.** Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Subdistricts 4-A Lower, 4-A Upper, and the Koyukuk River (from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to the tip of Cone Point and the Koyukuk River, including Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Wiseman, and Coldfoot):

Subsistence fishing for chum, coho, and Chinook salmon is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive.

Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, July 31 fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels will reopen on a weekly fishing schedule from:

12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays, until further notice. Nets 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 communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot. Gillnets in the permit area will not reopen until August 20.

Subdistricts 4-B, 4-C, 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (including the communities of Galena, Ruby, Tanana, and Rampart):

Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. 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.

Fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets will close at 12:00 p.m. noon, Sunday August 3.

Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, August 7 fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels will reopen on a weekly fishing schedule from:

12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays, until further notice.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including 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. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive. During the fall season, starting at 12:01 am Wednesday, July 23, fall chum and coho salmon must also be released alive.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in portions of Subdistricts 5-C and 5-D from the westernmost 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):

Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed and fish wheels may not be operated. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used 24 hours a day, seven days per week until further notice to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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, other adjacent tributaries, and communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed and fish wheels may not be operated.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday July 30 fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets will reopen 24 hours a day, seven days per week until further notice. Gillnets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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):

All gillnet fishing is currently closed and fish wheels may not be operated.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, August 3 fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets will reopen 24 hours a day, seven days per week until further notice. Gillnets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

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):

Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. 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.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

In Lake Minchumina subsistence fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for nonsalmon species 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):

Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook and chum salmon is closed. 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.

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, subsistence fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for nonsalmon species 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):

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

Personal Use salmon fishing in Subdistrict 6-C 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 is closed 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.

