



## **Advisory Announcement**

## **CONTACT:**

***Released: August 19, 2025***

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### **2025 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #17**

#### **Fall Update #5, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2025 Yukon River fall chum salmon run is currently projecting to be near 300,000 fish compared to a historical run size of 900,000 fish. The drainagewide escapement goal is 300,000–600,000 fall chum salmon. As outlined in the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, the projected run size must exceed 300,000 fish to provide subsistence salmon fishing opportunity. A run size below 300,000 fall chum salmon is not anticipated to be large enough to meet U.S. tributary goals or Canadian treaty objectives for fall chum salmon.

Genetic analysis applied to the fish passage estimates at the Yukon River mainstem sonar near Pilot Station indicates 178,000 fall chum salmon are in the river as of August 18, compared to the historical median of 475,000 fish (Figure 1). The fall chum salmon run is approaching the median historical third-quarter point on August 22. Fall chum salmon typically take 39 days to migrate from the mouth of the Yukon River to the U.S./Canada border, using an estimated travel rate of 35 miles per day.

Despite coming off a poor primary parent year escapement (2021), the coho salmon run appears to be stronger than in recent years in the lower Yukon River assessment projects. The coho salmon run size, based on early to median run timing, is projected to be 107,000–222,000 fish, compared to a historical average run index of 216,000 fish. A coho salmon run of this size is able to support subsistence harvest, therefore, coho salmon retention in all currently legal gear types will be allowed.

Inseason assessment is ongoing for both fall chum and coho salmon. Currently, subsistence fishing for fall chum and coho salmon is closed but coho salmon retention will be allowed in all legal subsistence gear types at noon on August 21. Whitefish and other nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fish wheels has been reduced to a weekend schedule to protect migrating salmon. Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon with 6-inch gillnets is open in designated, nonsalmon areas off the mainstem river only. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #10-#15 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated whitefish harvest areas.

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.

## **Fall Assessment Projects**

### Lower 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 August 18, the fall chum salmon cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 416.73, which is below the average of 897.94 for this date. The three-quarter point based on median run timing occurs on August 18 for fall chum salmon at this project. As of August 18, the coho salmon cumulative CPUE was 58.39, which is below the historical median of 145.79 for that date. The midpoint based on median run timing occurs on August 20 for coho 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 August 18, the cumulative passage is approximately 247,000 chum salmon in the fall season. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 444,000 chum salmon in the fall season for this date. The three-quarter point based on median run timing occurs on August 20 for chum salmon in the fall season at this project. NOTE: these values include a mixture of summer and fall chum salmon, once genetics are applied, they will effectively reduce the mainstem sonar estimated number of fall chum salmon in the river.

The coho salmon cumulative passage as of August 18 is approximately 58,000 fish (Figure 2), which is above the median passage of 43,000 fish for this date. The midpoint based on median run timing occurs August 22 for coho salmon at this project.

### Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar (USFWS)

The sonar project began operations on August 7. As of August 18, the cumulative passage was 1,163 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 7,000 fish for this date. The Teedriinjik escapement goal is 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon.

### Sheenjek River Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project began operations on August 6. As of August 18, the cumulative passage was 478 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 1,600 fish for this date.

### 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 transitioned from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon on August 15. As of August 18, the cumulative passage was 105 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 550 fish for this date.

### 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 192 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 16 through August 14, consisted of 74% age-4 and 20% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 65% age-4 and 33% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon based on 232 fish sampled from July 16–August 17, was 59% which is above the 2001–2024 historical average of 56%. The chum salmon average length was 573 mm is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 583 mm through August 17. The

age composition of 35 coho salmon sampled from July 16 through August 14, consisted of 46% age-3 and 51% age-4 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 15% age-3 and 77% age-4. The percentage of female coho salmon based on 71 fish sampled through August 17 was 39% which is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 42%. The average length of 567 mm is above the 2001–2024 historical average of 562 mm through August 14.

### Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis on chum salmon that passed the mainstem sonar from July 31-August 15 are currently in the USFWS lab. When the results are available, they will be provided in the following weekly fall update advisory announcement or look for them in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>.

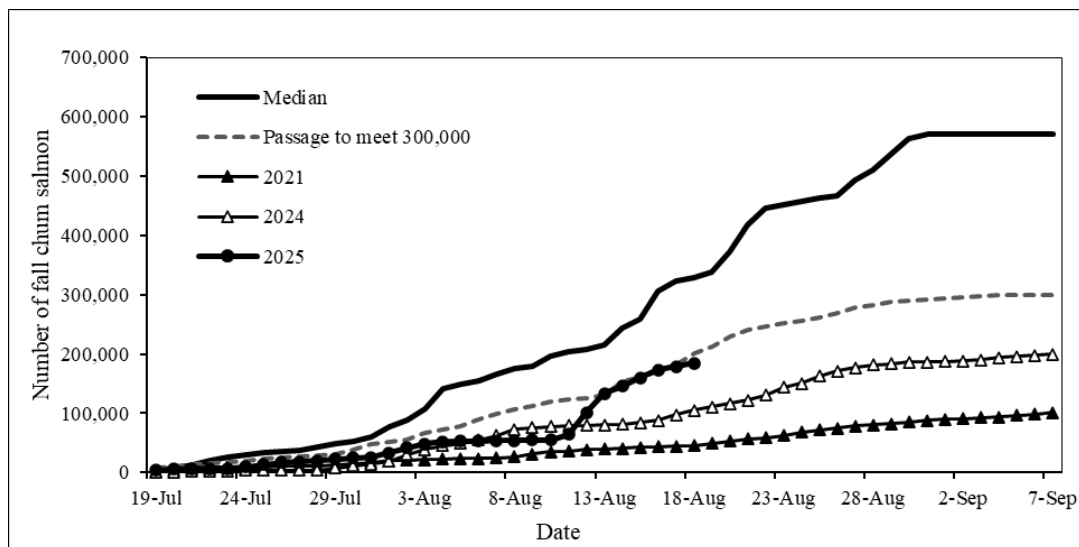


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon (as determined using genetic mixed stock analysis) at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2025 compared to the historical median and select years. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal.

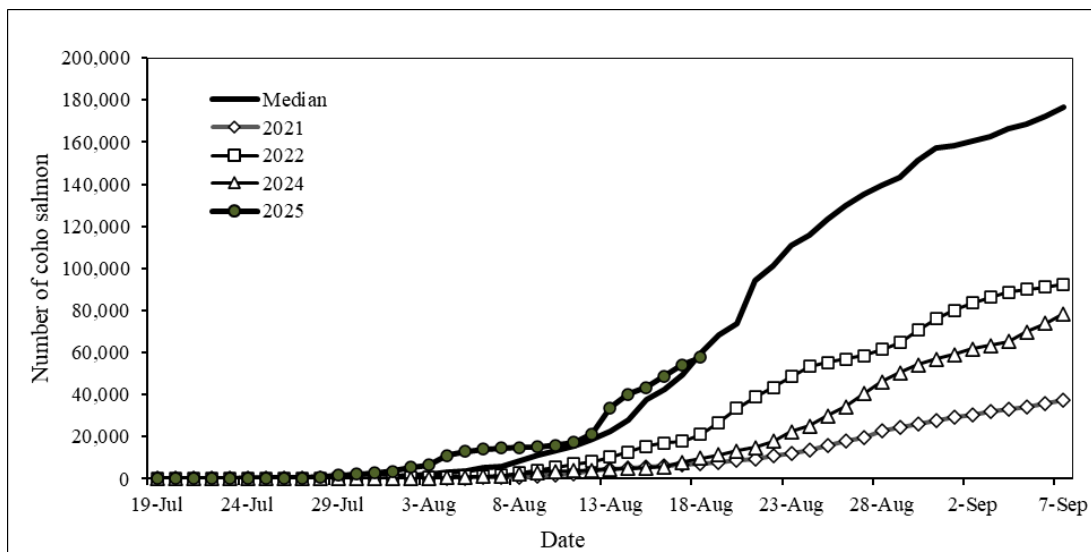


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar (Pilot Station), including estimates of downstream harvests, in 2025 compared to historical median and select recent years.

## Summer Assessment Projects

### Salcha Tower (ADF&G)

Operations ended August 15. Chinook salmon passage was estimated to be 1,739 fish, which was below the historical cumulative average of 7,296 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage was estimated to be 4,334 fish which was below the historical cumulative median of 19,015 fish. No counts were possible July 31, August 1, and August 4 because of high water, total passage should be considered a minimum estimate.

### Eagle Sonar (ADF&G and DFO)

Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 23,126 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 48,226 fish (Figure 3). Please note, the staff at the Eagle project recently discovered an incorrect setting in the offshore strata of the left bank, causing downstream debris to be counted as fish. This problem has been rectified, and all impacted files have been recounted for these strata. The estimates to date reflect this correction. This resulted in a reduction of roughly 3,000 Chinook salmon for the season. Assuming late run timing, the Chinook salmon run at Eagle is over 98% complete. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is well below average, but larger than what was observed in 2022 – 2023 and very similar to 2024 on this date. The average transition date between counting Chinook and fall chum salmon at this project is August 18 but the recent 5-year average is August 25.

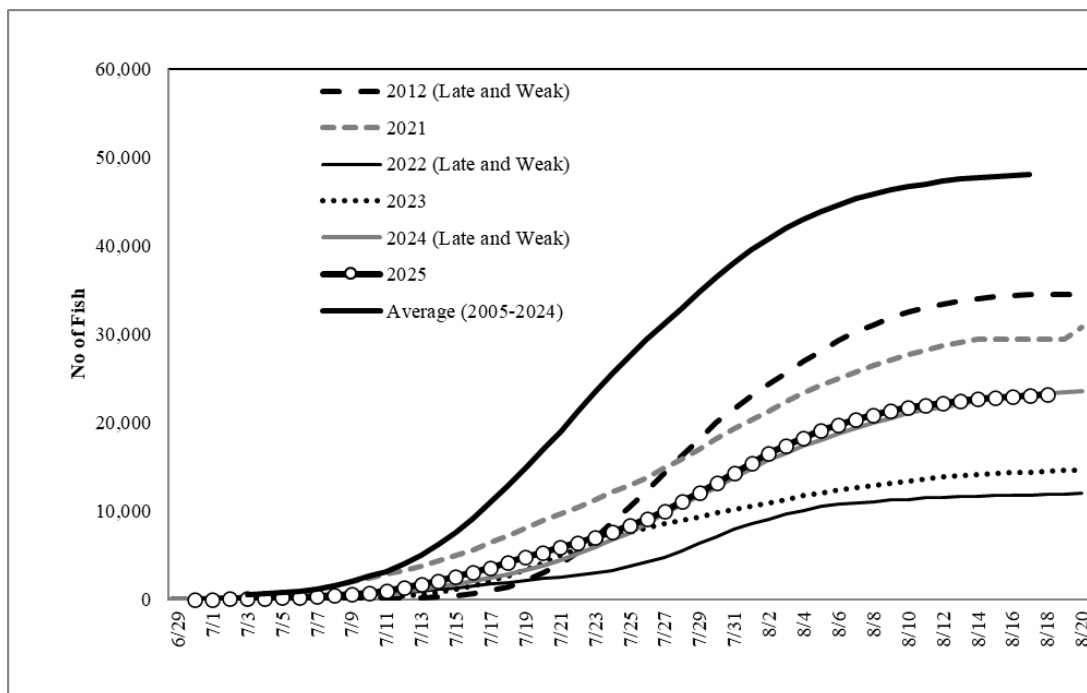


Figure 3. Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Eagle sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025.

### 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. 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 midchannel. 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 to 5, and the Innoko, Koyukuk, and Porcupine rivers** (from the Naskonak Peninsula north to Point Romanof, including the Black River, upstream to the U.S./Canada border, including

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, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Wiseman, Coldfoot, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho 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 **noon Thursdays, through 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.

**Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, August 21, coho salmon may be retained using all currently legal gear types.**

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.

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) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

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

**Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, Old Minto Area and the Kantishna River** (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon is closed. 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, 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 **noon Thursdays, through 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.

**Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, August 21, coho salmon may be retained using all currently legal gear types.**

In Lake Minchumina and 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):

Currently, subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon is closed. **Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and manned fish wheels 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 with nonlethal or selective gear types,

including dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net, remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive.

**Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, August 21, coho salmon may be retained using all currently legal gear types.**

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/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/).

### **6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas**

**Subsistence fishing with set gillnets is open in rivers, sloughs, and lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them, until further notice. Set gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and 60-feet or shorter in length. This is to provide an opportunity to harvest whitefish and other nonsalmon species. Gillnets cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #10-#15 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.**

### **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/](http://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](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions).

ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on [www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/](http://www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/) and shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG](https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG).

