



Advisory Announcement

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Released: August 12, 2025

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2025 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #9

Fall Update #4, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Based on inseason assessment, the fall chum salmon run size is projected to be below 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 provide subsistence salmon fishing opportunity. This year's age-4 return is from a record low parent year escapement that occurred in 2021. The run is not anticipated to be large enough to meet U.S. tributary goals or 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.

An estimated 109,000 chum salmon have entered the river at Pilot Station sonar since July 18, and through genetic analysis, approximately 60,000 of those are fall chum salmon. The fall chum salmon historical median count through August 11 is 301,000 fish (Figure 1) and the historical midpoint occurs on August 14, based on genetics. 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.

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 also from the lowest run on record, which occurred in 2021 with an estimated escapement of 46,000 fish. Inseason assessment indicates the run is coming in stronger in the early portion of the coho salmon run than the last few years, however, it is still early in the coho salmon run and assessment is ongoing.

Currently, subsistence fishing for fall chum and coho salmon is closed in most districts. Assessment projects will continue to monitor the run throughout the migration to determine if there is enough improvement in either fall chum or coho salmon to allow selective fishing opportunity. Whitefish and other nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch gillnets and manned fish wheels has been reduced to a weekend schedule to protect migrating salmon. Additional opportunities for whitefish and other nonsalmon subsistence fishing with 6-inch gillnets in nonsalmon areas off the mainstem river will be announced soon.

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 11, the fall chum salmon cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 318.66, which is below the average of 649.82 for this date. The midpoint based on median run timing occurs on August 13 for fall chum salmon at this project. As of August 11, the coho salmon cumulative CPUE was 29.89, which is below the historical median of 49.66 for that date. The first-quarter point 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 11, the cumulative passage is approximately 109,000 chum salmon in the fall season. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 331,000 chum salmon in the fall season for this date. The midpoint based on median run timing occurs on August 10 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 run has just begun, the cumulative passage as of August 11 is approximately 17,000 fish, which is slightly above the median passage of 12,000 fish for this date. The first-quarter point based on median run timing occurs August 17 for coho salmon at this project.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar (USFWS)

The sonar project began operations on August 7. As of August 11, the cumulative passage was 282 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 1,700 fish. 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 11, the cumulative passage was 176 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 395 fish.

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 94 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project from July 16 through August 8, consisted of 70% age-4 and 30% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2024 historical averages of 63% age-4 and 36% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon from July 16–August 11 was 60% which is above the 2001–2024 historical average of 55%. The chum salmon average length was 572 mm is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 583 mm through August 11. The percentage of female coho salmon based on 48 fish sampled through August 11 was 55% which is above the 2001–2024 historical average

of 43%. The average length of 547 mm is below the 2001–2024 historical average of 562 mm through August 11.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis on chum salmon that passed the mainstem sonar from July 18-30 indicated approximately 62% were summer chum and 38% were fall chum salmon. The fall chum salmon stocks consisted of 67% Border/US (Teedriinjik, Sheenjek, and Draanjik), 23% Canadian, and 10% Tanana Fall. For fall chum salmon this represented 77% U.S.-origin and 23% Canada-origin stocks. Project data and genetic results are available in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>.

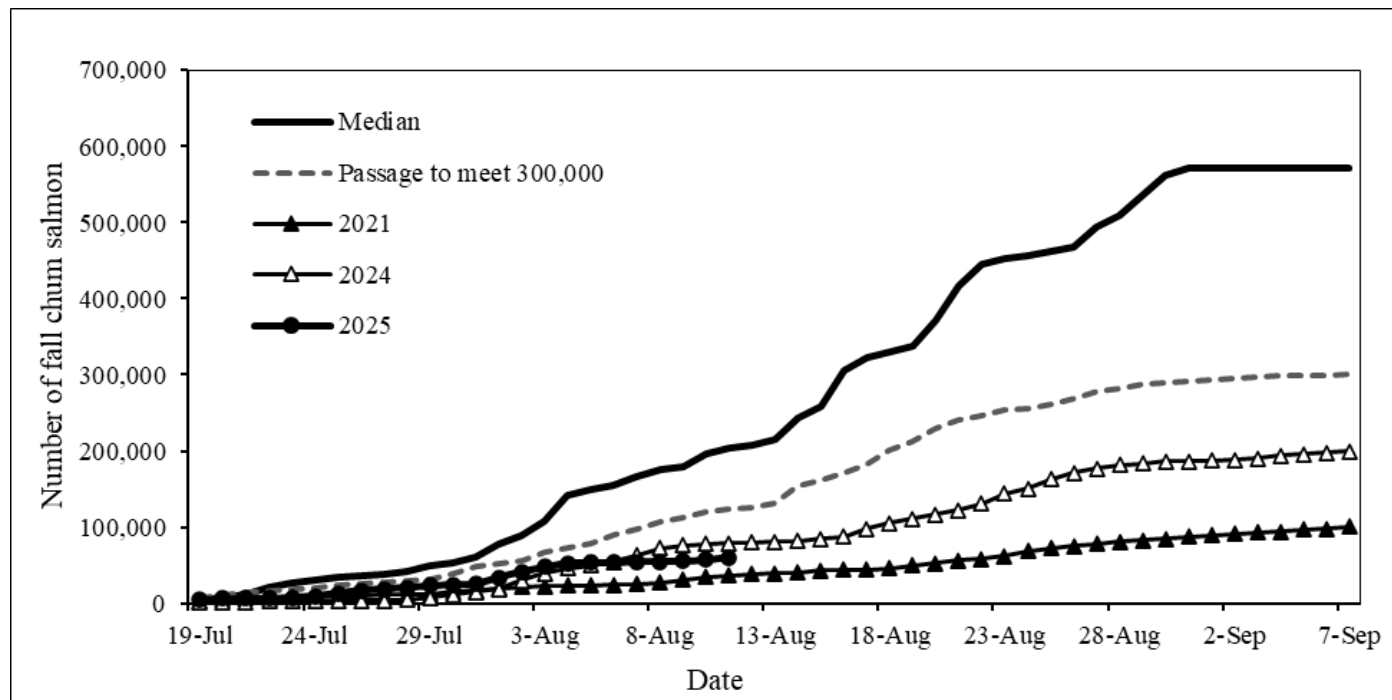


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon at the mainstem Yukon River sonar project (Pilot Station) in 2025 compared to the historical median and select years. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal.

Summer Season Assessment

The Chinook and summer chum salmon runs are complete through Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C and management has transitioned to fall season. Assuming late run timing, the Chinook salmon run at Eagle is almost 95% complete. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is well below average, but larger than what was observed in 2022 through 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.

Summer Assessment Projects

Chena Tower/sonar (ADF&G)

Operations ended August 11. Counts have been a mix of visual and sonar. Chinook salmon passage was estimated to be 1,218 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 5,049 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 2,301 fish which is below the historical cumulative median of 7,561 fish.

Salcha Tower (ADF&G)

Visual counts began on July 3 after delays due to forest fires. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 1,721 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 7,276 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 3,379 fish which is below the historical cumulative median of 17,919 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)

The sonar project was fully operational as of July 1. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 25,233 fish which is below the historical cumulative average of 47,013 fish (Figure 2).

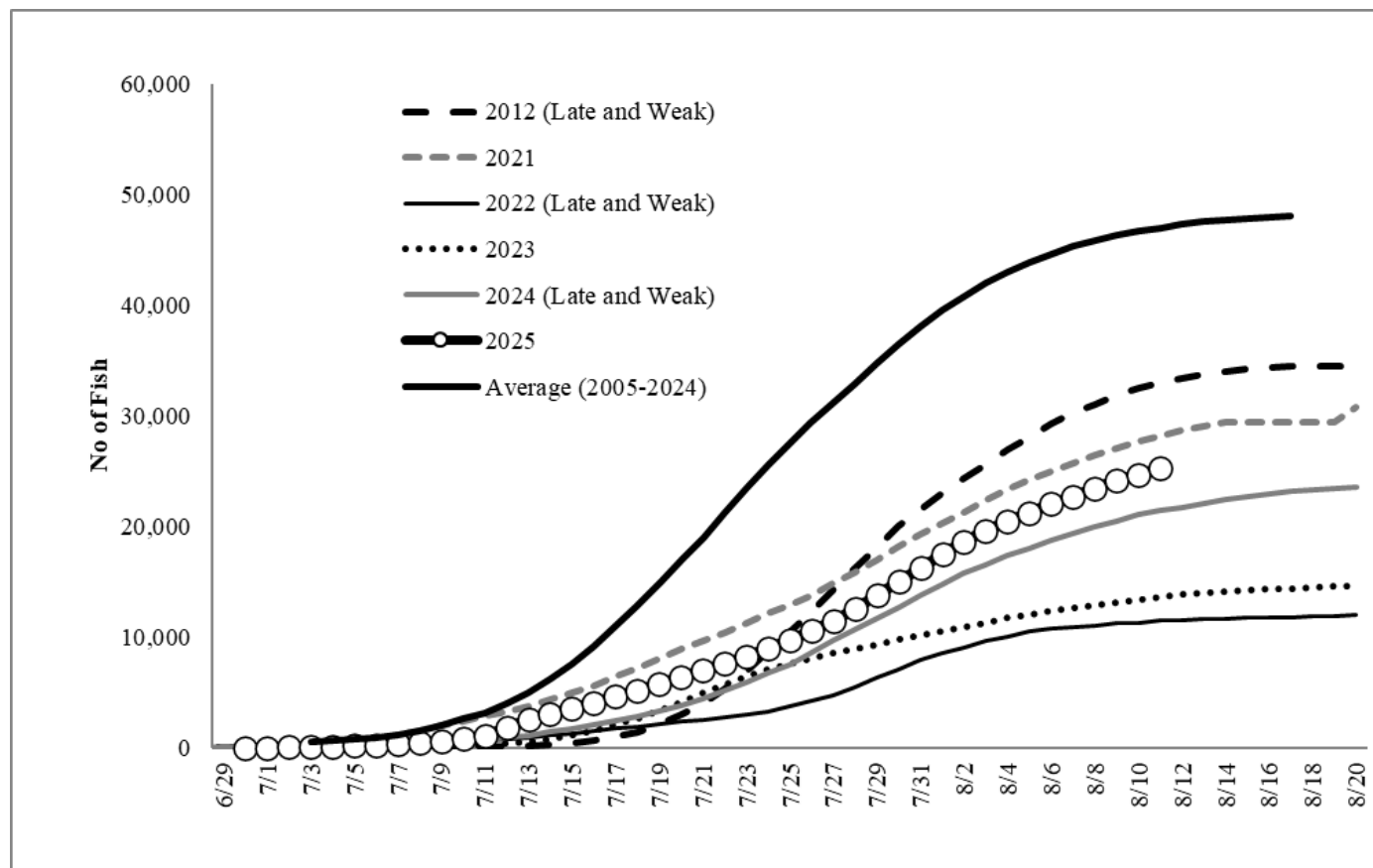


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Eagle sonar compared to late and/or weak years, 2025.

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. **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 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-D Middle, and the Innoko, Koyukuk, and Porcupine rivers (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof, including the Black River, upstream to 22 Mile Slough,

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, and Fort Yukon):

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.

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).

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):

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 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 17.

Effective 12:00 p.m. noon Thursday, August 21 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. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive. During the fall season, starting at 12:01 am Wednesday, August 13, fall chum and coho salmon must also 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.

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.

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 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 dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive.

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.

