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Advisory Announcement

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Toll free fishing schedule and counts: 1-866-479-7387

2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #3 **Coastal District, Districts 1 and 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The 2026 drainagewide Chinook salmon outlook is for a run size of 64,300 fish (range of 52,000 to 79,000 fish), which is well below average. Last year the run was around 60,000 fish and no escapement goals were met in Alaska or Canada. This year's run is likely to be similar in size and also unable to meet escapement objectives or provide any surplus for harvest. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to conserve migrating salmon, subsistence fishing closures will start based on historic Chinook salmon run timing. This is intended to protect all Chinook salmon stocks as they travel along the coast and make their way upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada.

The drainagewide summer chum salmon outlook is for a run size of 345,600 fish (range of 160,000 to 580,00 fish). Last year, the summer chum salmon run was below the drainagewide escapement goal of 500,000 fish with a total run near 400,000 fish. Summer chum salmon mostly come back as 4- and 5-year old fish. The parent years producing this year's age 4 and 5-year old fish are 2021 and 2022, the lowest and third lowest on record, respectively. Fishing for summer chum salmon will likely remain closed all season to allow fish to make it to their spawning areas.

Historically, Chinook salmon enter the river and start passing by Emmonak in early June. Therefore, salmon fishing will close June 1 in the Coastal District and District 1. Salmon fishing will close on June 3 in District 2 to account for run timing between districts.

Opportunity to harvest pink salmon, sockeye salmon, and nonsalmon species will be allowed with 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets and other selective gear types. Fishermen are reminded to set 4-inch mesh gillnets in areas where salmon are not present to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook and chum salmon. If you are catching salmon closed to harvest, please move your net to protect them. While any salmon caught in gillnets may be kept if dead, if it appears Chinook or chum salmon are being targeted, these nonsalmon opportunities could be further restricted. All Chinook and chum salmon should be released alive when possible while using nonsalmon gear. Later in the season, the use of 4-inch gillnets will be closed between the first and third quarter point of the Chinook salmon run to reduce incidental harvest of salmon closed to harvest.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). Once projects are up and running, daily sonar counts 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 will be open regular business hours beginning on June 3: Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Saturdays and Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office: 1-907-949-1320.

In-season salmon management teleconferences hosted by YRDFA will take place Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. starting on June 2. The call-in number is 1-800-315-6338, and the participation code is Yukon# (98566#).

Subsistence Management Actions

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):

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 1, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

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

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. Wednesday, June 3, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Nonlethal or selective gear types for nonsalmon may also still be used, including hook and line, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. **Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.**

In the Coastal District and Districts 1 and 2, gillnets may not be submerged during ice free months. Gillnets must have visible floating corks and be marked with a keg or buoy that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address.

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 Federal special action **TSA 03-KS-01-26** closing Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing and restricting nonsalmon gillnets in waters adjacent to Federal Land. For additional information concerning Yukon River Federal Special Actions contact the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; holly_carroll@fws.gov, (907) 351-3029 or Assistant Manager, Keith Herron; keith_herron@fws.gov, (907) 334-5391.



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.

