



## Advisory Announcement

## CONTACT:

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**Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist**  
**Mike Parker, Assistant Area Management Biologist**  
**1-907-459-7274 (Fairbanks)**  
**1-907-949-1320 (Emmonak)**  
**Toll free fishing schedule and counts: 1-866-479-7387**

### **2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #5** **Summer Update # 1, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery** Districts Affected: 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. The drainagewide summer chum salmon outlook is for a run size of 345,600 fish (range of 160,000 to 580,000 fish), which is below the drainagewide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,200,000 fish. Runs of this size are unlikely to meet escapement goals. 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 and chum salmon stocks as they travel along the coast and make their way upriver to their spawning grounds. Closure dates have been announced for the Coastal District, Districts 1-3, and the Innoko River drainage. Other districts should stand by for closure date announcements for each area based on Chinook salmon travel time.

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 (dip net, beach seine, hook and line). 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 it appears Chinook or chum salmon are being targeted, these nonsalmon opportunities could be further restricted. All Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from selective gear types. 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.

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.

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#).

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.

### **Assessment Projects**

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

YDFDA (Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association) crews will begin drift operations as soon as conditions warrant. They plan to begin drifting with snag nets to clear drift zones and transition to summer chum salmon drifts with 5.5-inch gillnets when conditions permit

This project is transitioning primary operations to YDFDA with ADF&G providing data analysis, reporting and support as needed. YDFDA will conduct test fishing and collect summer chum salmon ASL in 2026. ADF&G plans to transition collecting chum salmon ASL at the Pilot Station sonar project starting in 2027. The Pilot Station sonar test fishery uses multiple sizes of drift gillnets and will catch a more representative size distribution of chum salmon. YDFDA will continue to operate the LYTF to obtain information on run timing, strength and entry through CPUE data. Additionally, YDFDA will collect chum salmon scales for additional ASL information.

### Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Crew is on site setting up the project. Sonar operation start date has been delayed by breakup and flooding in St. Mary's.

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.

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

Anvik Sonar, Eagle Sonar, Salcha River Tower, Chena River Tower/Sonar (ADF&G) and Chinook salmon radio tagging will take place near Tanana and Rampart. More information will be provided as projects come online.

## **Subsistence Management Actions**

Nonlethal or selective gear types for nonsalmon may still be used during salmon fishing closures, including hook and line, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, and fyke net. 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. All gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address.

**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 for Chinook and summer chum salmon 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 be used, however Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.** Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.

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

Subsistence fishing is currently open 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 be used, however Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.**

**District 3** (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

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. Sunday, June 7, 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 be used, however Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.**

**Innoko River drainage** (including Shageluk):

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. Tuesday, June 9, 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 be used, however Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.**

**District 4 and the Koyukuk River** (including Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, and Coldfoot):

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

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman. Gillnet gear in the permit area must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size and cannot be used from June 30 to August 20.

**District 5** (including Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Central, and Eagle):

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

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

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

**Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B, Kantishna River, Old Minto Area, Lake Minchumina, and Upper Tanana Area** (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Tanana River headwaters, including Manley, Minto, Nenana, Lake Minchumina, Delta Junction area, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Northway, and Nabesna):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

**Personal Use Salmon Fishing**

**Subdistrict 6-C Salmon** (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):

By regulation, Personal Use fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on a schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

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

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

**Personal use salmon fishing will be closed once salmon arrive in the area.**

### **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):

Fishing for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, subject to permit stipulations.

In the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A and 6-B), a subsistence permit is required for salmon fishing. A personal use salmon permit and valid sport fishing license are required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C. A personal use whitefish and sucker permit and valid sport fishing license are required in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.

A subsistence permit is required for northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats.

Subsistence harvest calendars and 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/).

### **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. For additional information concerning Yukon River Federal Special Actions contact the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; [holly\\_carroll@fws.gov](mailto:holly_carroll@fws.gov), (907) 351-3029 or Assistant Manager, Keith Herron; [keith\\_herron@fws.gov](mailto: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](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).

