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Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Released: June 4, 2026

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

2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #6 **District 4 and Koyukuk River Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper 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 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 is likely to remain closed all season to allow fish to make it to their spawning areas.

Historically, Chinook salmon enter the river in early June. Therefore, salmon fishing will close June 11 in the lower portion of Subdistrict District 4-A and closures will go into effect in the remainder of District 4.

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 near shore in areas where salmon are not present to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook and chum salmon. If you are catching salmon that are 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. 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 projects 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 is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Saturdays and Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office can be reached at: 1-907-949-1320.

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

Subsistence Management Actions

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, including Grayling and Anvik):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, June 11, 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.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek to Cone Point, including Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, June 14, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets with 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.

Koyukuk River (including Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, and Coldfoot):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 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 $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches or smaller mesh size and cannot be used from June 30 to August 20.

Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C (including Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets

Nonlethal or selective gear types for nonsalmon may 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 District 4 and the Koyukuk River drainage, 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 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-03-26** 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.

