



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement # 8

Summer Update # 2, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Summer season assessment projects have begun operations on the lower Yukon River. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) started drift fishing at the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites on June 2. The first summer chum salmon of the season was caught on June 5 at the Middle Mouth site. The Pilot Station sonar project began estimating salmon passage on June 7.

There is currently insufficient data available to update inseason projections for Chinook or summer chum salmon run size or timing. The preseason Chinook salmon outlook is for a drainagewide run size of 64,300 fish with a range of 52,000 to 79,000 fish. The forecast for Canadian-origin Chinook salmon is for a run of 22,000 to 33,000 fish. Based on recent trends of fewer Canadian-origin Chinook salmon making it upriver, border passage is projected to be between 11,000 to 31,000 fish. These run sizes are far below average, and it is unlikely that escapement goals will be met for Chinook salmon in Alaska or Canada. The forecast for summer chum salmon is for a run size of 345,600 with a range of 160,000 to 580,000 fish. However, there is a lot of uncertainty about this year's run due to the low returns from the parent years. The projected run is unlikely to meet the drainagewide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,200,000 fish. If inseason estimates of summer chum salmon indicate that the run will meet the drainage wide escapement goal, openings with selective gear types may be announced. Salmon fishing closures have been announced through District 4 to protect the low Chinook and chum salmon runs as they migrate upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. To further protect Chinook salmon, fishing with all gillnets (including 4-inch or smaller mesh gear) will be closed during the bulk of the Chinook salmon run. Fishermen should expect future announcements of closures to Chinook and chum salmon fishing in their area.

Assessment project and management updates are published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates). Daily sonar passage estimates and LYTF test fish numbers are shared on the toll-free phone recording: 1-866-479-7387 and on Facebook (Yukon River Fishing - ADFG).

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and can be reached at: 1-907-949-1320 during normal business hours.

Weekly teleconferences hosted by YR DFA 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#).

Assessment Projects

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

Fishermen began clearing drift zones with snagging nets on May 27 at Middle Mouth and June 1 at Big Eddy. Summer chum salmon drifts with 5.5-inch mesh gillnets began on June 3 at both the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth fishing sites. The first chum salmon was caught on June 5 at Middle Mouth. As of June 9, the cumulative CPUE is 5.53 which is below the historic cumulative CPUE of 29.87.

To reduce mortalities, LYTF will continue to not target Chinook salmon. Salmon will be released alive from the test nets if possible and any with injuries or mortalities will be distributed within nearby communities. Summer chum salmon will be sampled for ASL (Age, Sex, and Length).

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar and test fishing operations were delayed due to a late break up and flooding. The first partial day of collecting sonar data was June 6 and the project was fully operational on June 7. The first Chinook salmon was caught on June 7 and the first summer chum salmon was caught on June 8. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 2,172 fish, which is below the historical cumulative median of 5,569 fish. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be 590 fish which is below the historical cumulative median of 15,288 fish. Early season estimates are subject to change as data is pooled across multiple days. The sampling error of the estimates is high at this point in the season because passage rates and catches are low. The confidence intervals around passage estimates will tighten as the season progresses.

All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery (PSSTF) will be sampled for ASL and genetics. Additional biological sampling will be conducted on Chinook salmon mortalities as part of a broad collaborative effort to better understand salmon health and potential drivers of *en route* mortality and low productivity.

Chinook Radio Telemetry (ADF&G)

2026 is the start of the second phase of a multi year effort to evaluate concerns for Chinook *en route* mortality and distribution within Canada. Tagging occurred in 2023 and 2024 based out of Emmonak. We are now moving up river to tag fish in the Rampart area where the highest levels of en-route mortality have been observed and to focus on the Canadian-origin stock. This is the first year of a three-year effort to capture and tag up to 250 Chinook salmon each season near Rampart Rapids and track upriver migration within the upper Yukon in Alaska and continue tracking to evaluate distribution within Canada. Chinook salmon tagging will begin mid June. Each fish will be tagged with both an internal radio telemetry tag and an external spaghetti tag. **If you encounter a tagged fish this season and are successful at documenting the tag number, please call 1-877-467-2104 to report information about when and where the fish was observed.** As a thank you for voluntarily reporting the tag number and associated information, you will be automatically entered into the ADF&G salmon tag lottery at the ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Emmonak. Please contact Josh Clark at 907-267-2217 or Fred West at 907-267-2237 with any questions.

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

Anvik Sonar, Eagle Sonar, Salcha River Tower, and Chena River Tower/Sonar (ADF&G).

Current Subsistence Management Actions

As a general reminder, gillnets must be marked with a buoy or float that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. Fish wheels must have the first initial, last name, and address of the operator legibly inscribed on the side of the fish wheel facing the midstream of the river. In Districts 3-6 and the Koyukuk River, submerged gillnets may be used but must have a visible buoy or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net, plus a third float in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length.

Coastal District and Districts 1-3 (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, Kotlik and upriver including the communities of Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission and Holy Cross (excluding the Innoko River)):

Chinook and chum salmon fishing is currently closed. Gillnets with mesh larger than 4-inches are not allowed. 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. Other fishing gear is limited to non-lethal 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 and chum salmon must be released alive.**

Innoko River drainage (including Shageluk):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets with mesh larger than 4-inches 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.

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 with mesh 4-inches or larger 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 the tip of 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.

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

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, 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 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 20, 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.

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 (from Illinois Creek to the U.S. Canada border including Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Central, and Eagle):

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

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

District 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

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

Kantishna River (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

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

Old Minto Area:

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

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):

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

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 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/.

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.

