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Advisory Announcement

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

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2026 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #6

Fall Update #2, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Fall season management started in the Lower Yukon Area on July 13, and Lower Yukon assessment projects have transitioned to fall season counts. The current fall chum salmon preseason projection, based on the relationship between the abundance of summer and fall chum salmon, is for a run size of greater than 400,000 fish. If the run comes in as projected, it will meet the drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000–600,000 fish. However, even with a run size within the escapement goal range, Canadian treaty goals are not anticipated to be met, which are 70,000–104,000 fish in the mainstem Yukon River and 22,000–49,000 fish in the Fishing Branch River. Therefore, directed subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon in the mainstem Yukon River is highly unlikely.

Coho salmon typically enter the Yukon River in mid-August with the bulk of the run passing the Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) between August 16 and 27. The primary parent year for coho salmon this year is from 2022, with an estimated index of escapement of 100,000 fish. Therefore, the run size is expected to be well below the average of 212,000 fish.

As both the fall chum and coho salmon runs are anticipated to be well below average, subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon will be restricted as they arrive in each area and nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch gillnets will be reduced to protect migrating salmon. Assessment projects will continue to monitor the run throughout the migration to determine if there is enough improvement to allow increased fishing opportunity. 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.

Weekly teleconferences hosted by YRDFA take place on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. The call-in number is 1-800-315-6338, and the participation code is YUKON# (98566#).

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

Fall season operations began on July 16 using 6-inch mesh gear to target fall chum and coho salmon. As of July 27, the cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon was 163.41, which is below the historic cumulative CPUE of 217.92 for this date. The first quarter point based on median run timing occurs on August 2 for fall season chum salmon at this project. No coho salmon has been captured to date.

Fall chum and coho salmon will be sampled for ASL (Age, Sex, and Length). All retained fish will be distributed to local communities.

Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G)

The sonar project operated near Pilot Station transitioned to fall season counts on July 19. As of July 27, the cumulative passage is approximately 70,000 fall season chum salmon. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 123,000 fall season chum salmon for this date. The first quarter point based on median run timing occurs on July 31 for fall season chum salmon at this project. No coho salmon has been captured to date.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

This sonar project typically begins August 8 to count fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar / ADF&G

This sonar project typically begins August 8 to count fall chum salmon.

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 to early September.

Summer Season Assessment

The Chinook and summer chum salmon runs are complete in the lower river and management has transitioned to fall season up through Subdistrict 4-A Upper. Assuming normal run timing, the midpoint of the Chinook salmon run was projected to reach the sonar project located near Eagle on July 26. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is below average but larger than what has been observed since 2019 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. All Chinook salmon must be released alive to help get fish to their spawning areas.

The 2026 summer chum salmon run is estimated to be just over 1 million fish, which is well within the drainagewide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1.2 million fish, and above the preseason forecast. The total run size and escapement of the summer chum salmon run will be estimated later this year after final assessment project and subsistence harvest estimates are available. Subsistence fishing opportunity to target summer chum salmon was limited due to the preseason forecast and the run coinciding with the below average Chinook salmon run.

Summer Assessment Projects

Anvik Sonar (ADF&G)

Operations ended on July 26. Cumulative passage was $259,194 \pm 5,583$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which was below the median cumulative passage of 438,670 fish.

Chena River Tower (ADF&G)

Tower operations began on July 2. As of July 27, Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 1,297 which is below the historical cumulative average of 4,345 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 496 fish which is below the historical cumulative median of 1,792 fish. Some tower counts have been hindered by high water and passage should be considered a minimum estimate

Salcha River Tower (ADF&G)

Tower operations began on July 8. As of July 27, Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be 1,672 fish, which is below the historical cumulative average of 6,218 fish. Summer chum salmon cumulative passage is estimated to be 973 fish which is below the historical cumulative median of 3,146 fish. Some tower counts have been hindered by high water and passage should be considered a minimum estimate

Eagle Sonar (ADF&G)

Sonar operations began on June 30. As of July 27, Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $17,947 \pm 270$ fish (90% confidence interval), which is below the historical cumulative average of 30,145 fish.

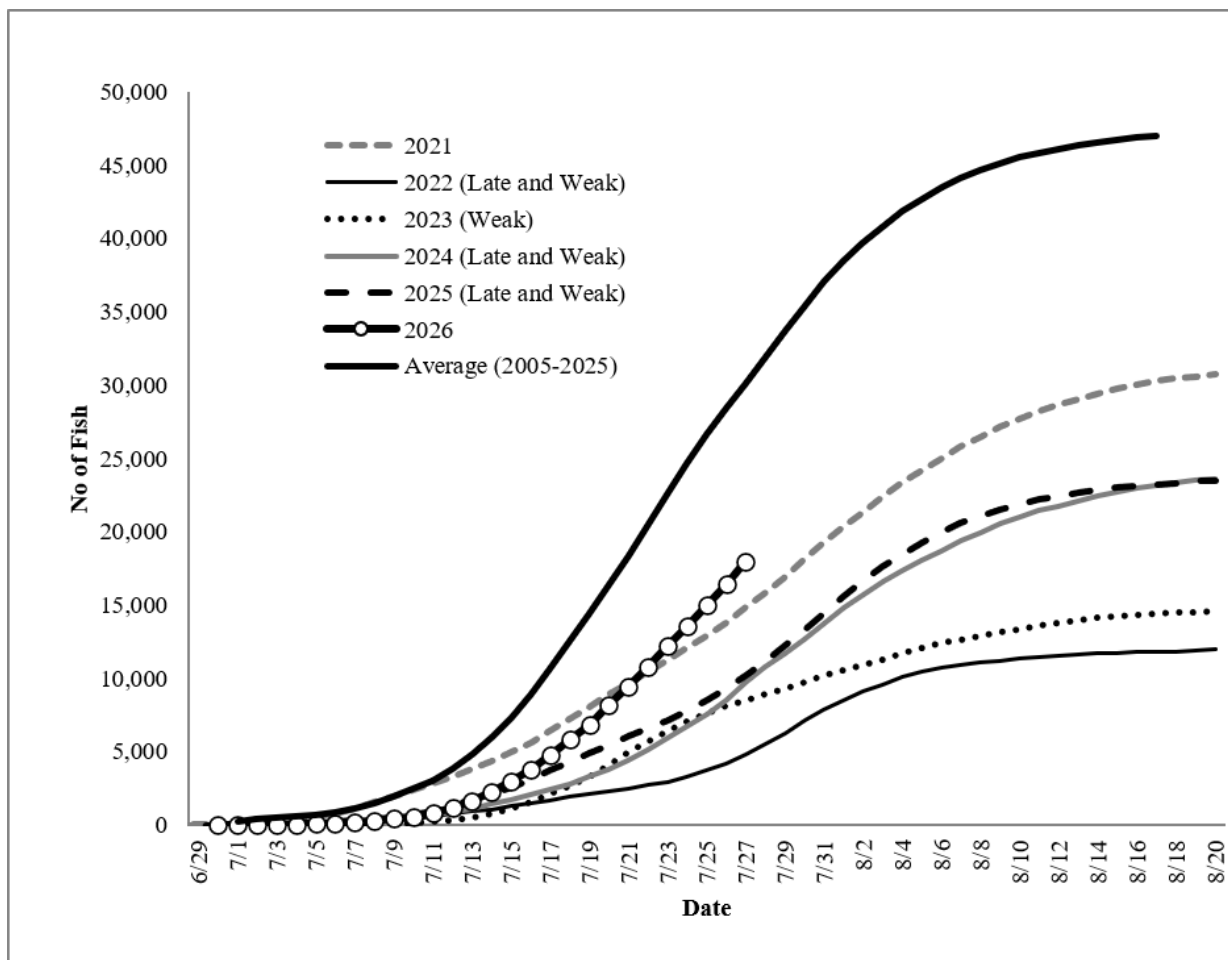


Figure 1. The 2026 cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Eagle sonar compared to recent five years of late and poor run sizes. The average of run sizes from 2005 – 2025 is also included.

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 spawning distribution within Canada. This is the first year of an up to three-year effort to capture and tag up to 250 Chinook salmon each season near Rampart Rapids. Tagged fish will be tracked throughout the upper Yukon in Alaska and Canada to evaluate en-route mortality and spawning distribution. Tagging at Rapids will conclude today, July 28, but tracking operations are ongoing using remote tracking towers and aerial surveys within both Alaska and Each fish was 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.

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 398 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Pilot Station sonar test fishery through July 18 was 10% age-4, 62% age-5, 27% age-6 and <1% age-7 fish. The percentage of age-5 fish was above average, while age-4 and age-6 fish were below average. Chinook salmon within each age class was similar to the recent 10-year average. The average length of 714 mm across all age classes is smaller than the recent 10-year average length of 727 mm.

The age composition of 862 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through July 6 was 84% age-4, which compares to a historical average of 51%. The age-5 component made up 15% of the samples, which compares to a historical average of 47%. Of the samples, <1% were age-6 fish, which compares to the historical average of 2%. The age-4 fish average length of 550 mm and the age-5 average length of 563 mm are similar or slightly larger compared to average (2016–2025). Female summer chum salmon are slightly less at 47% compared to a historical average (2016–2025) of 56%.

The fall season chum salmon samples from July 16-July 25 have not been aged yet, but the percentage of female chum salmon was 33% female which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 50%. The average length of these fish through July 25 was 568 mm which is below the 2001–2025 historical average of 580 mm.

Stock Identification

The third stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from Pilot Station sonar test fishery (July 6 through July 18) consisted of 99% summer stocks. Of those, 81% were bound for lower river, 14% were bound for the middle river, and 3% were bound for the Tanana River. The lower summer stocks are above average while the middle river and Tanana stocks are lower than average (18% and 9% respectively), for this time period. The results are also provided in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Fishing for nonsalmon remains open, but it 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.

Coastal District, District 1, District 2, District 3, Subdistrict 4-A Lower, Subdistrict 4-A Upper, and the Koyukuk and Innoko rivers (from the Naskonat Peninsula, north to Point Romanof, and upstream to the tip of Cone Point, which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik):

Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon is closed and these salmon species must be released alive. Fishing for nonsalmon remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with nonlethal or selective gear types including manned fish wheels, 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.

4-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity Districtwide

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh 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.

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets is open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice.** Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcements #1-#4 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

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 until August 20.

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

Currently, subsistence fishing is open until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 28 with manned fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear for nonsalmon and chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. **Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types.**

Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, subsistence fishing for fall chum and coho salmon will close and all Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for nonsalmon will reopen on a weekly schedule from 12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays through 12:00 p.m. 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. Gillnets cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Fishing with other nonsalmon gears, including manned fish wheel, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, and beach seine is open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. **Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gear (other than 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets)**

6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with **6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets is open only in designated nonsalmon areas until further notice.** Set gillnets are restricted 60-feet or shorter in length and cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Please see Fall Season Advisory Announcement #4 for the named lists, GPS coordinates, and maps of these designated areas. Links to Advisory Announcements and maps are shared on the ADFG – Yukon River Fishing Facebook page.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C (including Tanana and Rampart):

Summer chum salmon may be retained in dip net, beach seine, manned fish wheel, and hook and line gear until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 2. Chinook salmon must be released alive. Pink and sockeye salmon may also be retained.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-feet or less in length.

A subsistence fishing permit is required in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C from the westernmost tip of Garnet Island upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek (Dalton Highway bridge area).

Subdistrict 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

Chinook salmon fishing is closed.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-feet or less in length.

Fishing with other nonsalmon gears, including manned fish wheels, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, and beach seine is open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-D Lower from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the mouth of Dall River.

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough, including the Porcupine River, all other adjacent tributaries, and the communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

Salmon fishing is closed and All gillnets must be removed from the water until 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 30.

Fishing with other nonsalmon gears, including hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, and beach seine is open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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):

Salmon fishing is closed and All gillnets must be removed from the water until 8:00 p.m. Monday, August 3.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

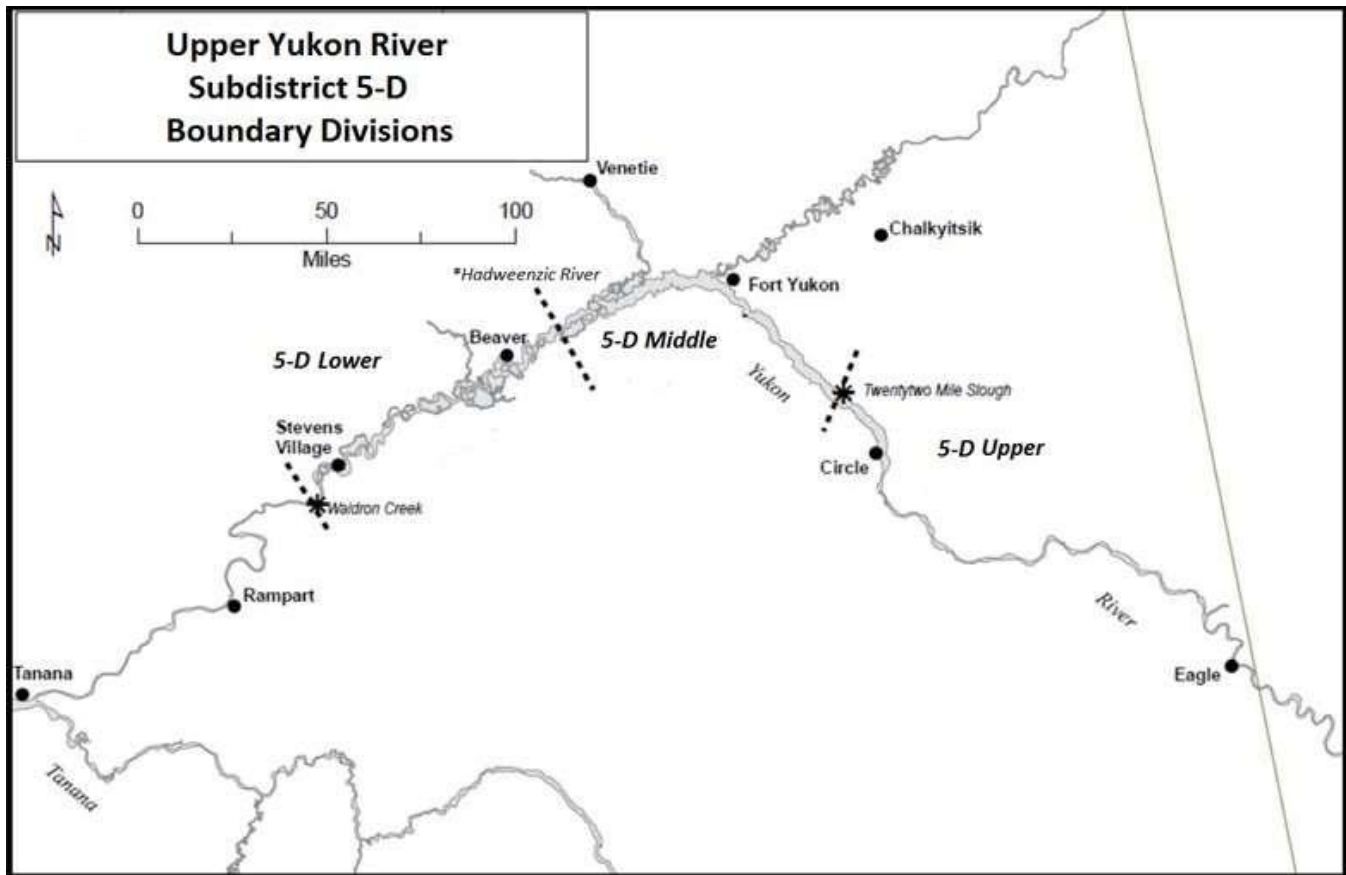


Figure 1. Subdistrict 5-D boundary divisions.

Subdistrict 6-A and the Kantishna River (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, and Manley):

Chinook salmon fishing is closed.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-feet or less in length.

Summer chum salmon may be retained from dip net, beach seine, and manned fish wheels until 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 14. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

In Lake Minchumina, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

Subdistrict 6-B and the Old Minto Area (from eastern edge of the Kantishna River upstream to the Wood River, including Minto and Nenana):

Chinook salmon fishing is closed.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to set gillnets 60-feet or less in length.

Summer chum salmon may be retained from dip net, beach seine, and manned fish wheel until 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 14. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, subsistence fishing is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and 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):

Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and 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.

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.

Personal Use Management Actions

Subdistrict 6-C (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):

Personal Use salmon fishing is currently closed.

Personal Use fishing for summer chum salmon is open with dip nets and manned fish wheels on a schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

6:00 p.m. Mondays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Fridays to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sundays

All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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 manned fish wheels is open on the Personal Use Salmon fishing schedule listed above until 12:00 p.m. noon, Wednesday, August 12. 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.

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. In Federal public waters, the summer chum salmon subsistence fishing opportunity is limited to federally qualified subsistence users in the Yukon River drainage. 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 in cooperation with the USFWS.

Federal Special Actions will be posted on www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

ADF&G Advisory Announcements and fish counts can be obtained by visiting www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG or www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts. To receive advisory announcements by email, sign up at www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov.



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