



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist
907-949-1320 (Emmonak)

Released: June 23, 2023

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

2023 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #15 Coastal District and Districts 1 and 2 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The summer chum salmon run is entering the river as forecast and stronger than recent years. While the run still appears to be below average, projections are indicating the run will be above the lower end of the 500,000 to 1.2 million drainagewide goal range. Therefore, a harvestable surplus of summer chum salmon for subsistence fishing is available. Consistent with the preseason management strategy, openings with selective gear types to harvest summer chum salmon are being announced based on regulatory schedules.

The 2023 Chinook salmon run is reaching its historical midpoint (June 25) at Pilot Station sonar. The run remains well below average and is unlikely to meet any escapement goals; therefore, Chinook salmon fishing remains closed.

During selective gear openings, **all Chinook salmon must be released alive**. Fishermen are reminded to practice respectful and safe fish handling techniques and ensure any Chinook salmon caught in selective or nonsalmon gear types are released alive so they may continue upriver to their spawning grounds. If it appears that Chinook salmon are being targeted with this gear, fishing will be further restricted.

Subsistence Management Actions

Coastal District (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to one mile south of the mouth of the Black River which includes the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 26, fishing for summer chum salmon is open with dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be kept. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Gillnets are still restricted to set gillnets with 4-inch maximum mesh and 60 feet in length, and may be used to target nonsalmon, but fishermen should avoid fishing in areas where Chinook salmon are passing.

District 1 (from one mile south of the mouth of the Black River along the coast to Point Romanof and including the Black River and the communities of Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 26, fishing for summer chum salmon will open with selective gear types for two 36-hour periods per week from:

8 p.m. Mondays to 8 a.m. Wednesdays

8 p.m. Thursdays to 8 a.m. Saturdays

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, fishing for summer chum salmon will open with selective gear types for two 36-hour periods per week from:

8 p.m. Wednesdays to 8 a.m. Fridays

8 p.m. Sundays to 8 a.m. Tuesdays

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Fishing for nonsalmon species remains open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and must be operated as a set net. Fishermen are reminded to set this gear in areas where nonsalmon species are abundant to avoid incidentally harvesting salmon. While any salmon caught in this gear may be kept, if it appears Chinook salmon are being targeted with this gear, fishing will be further restricted.

Other gear types for nonsalmon species include hook and line, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive. Summer chum, pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.

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.

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Sundays). ADF&G Emmonak office: 1-907-949-1320.

Assessment project and management updates will be shared during the weekly YRDFFA teleconferences each **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. (Alaska time). Call in number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#**

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 Federal manager will issue separate Federal special actions with the same fishing schedule, that restricts fishing to federally qualified subsistence users in Federal Public waters. The Emmonak USFWS office is not open. 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.

