



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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

Released: June 28, 2023

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

2023 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #18 District 4 and Koyukuk River 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 fish 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 has reached 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

Subdistrict 4-A and the Anvik River (from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to the tip of Cone Point, including Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence salmon fishing is closed.

Effective 6 p.m. Sunday July 2, fishing for summer chum salmon is open with selective gear types for two 48-hour periods per week from:

6 p.m. Sundays to 6 p.m. Tuesdays

6 p.m. Wednesdays to 6 p.m. Fridays

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation; Chinook salmon may not enter a live box and must be immediately returned to the water using a chute, slide, tote or other fish friendly means. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. **As previously announced, subsistence salmon fishing will close at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 29. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length. Nets should be set near shore.**

Effective 6 p.m. Sunday July 2, fishing for summer chum salmon is open with selective gear types for two 48-hour periods per week from:

**6 p.m. Sundays to 6 p.m. Tuesdays
6 p.m. Wednesdays to 6 p.m. Fridays**

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation; Chinook salmon may not enter a live box and must be immediately returned to the water using a chute, slide, tote or other fish friendly means. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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 may only be used from August 20 to June 30 and must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size.

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

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed.

Effective 6 p.m. Wednesday July 5, fishing for summer chum salmon is open with selective gear types for two 48-hour periods per week from:

**6 p.m. Wednesdays to 6 p.m. Fridays
6 p.m. Sundays to 6 p.m. Tuesdays**

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation; Chinook salmon may not enter a live box and must be immediately returned to the water using a chute, slide, tote or other fish friendly means. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Fishing for nonsalmon species remains open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh and 60 feet or less in length 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 District 4 and the Koyukuk River, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence fishing during ice-free months, however submerged nets must have a visible buoy or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net. All gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg 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 has issued separate Federal special action FSA 2-KS-02-23 with the same fishing schedule that restrict 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.

