



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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

2024 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #6 Subdistrict 4-B, 4-C and Koyukuk River Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2024 Chinook salmon run size is forecasted to be well below average, and may be as low or lower than the run last year. The run is unlikely to meet escapement objectives or provide any surplus for harvest. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach this season, subsistence fishing closures will start based on historic Chinook salmon run timing. This is intended to protect all Chinook salmon stocks while they migrate upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. Opportunity to harvest nonsalmon will be allowed with 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets. If you are catching Chinook salmon in a 4-inch gillnet, please move your net to protect them. Later in the season, the use of 4-inch gillnets will be closed for a two-week period in order to reduce any incidental catch of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon.

The summer chum salmon run will be assessed as it enters the river. The forecast is for a run of 550,000 to 1,800,000 fish. When the summer chum salmon run is projected to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal (at least 500,000 fish), and when summer chum salmon outnumber Chinook salmon, fishing opportunities with selective gear types may be announced. The last few years (since 2019), the summer chum salmon run has been entering the river up to a week late with the midpoint of the run at Pilot Station Sonar of around July 3. Traditional midpoint at the sonar is June 29.

Assessment project and management updates will be published in weekly Advisory Announcements (Updates) and shared during the weekly YRDFA teleconferences on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. (Alaska time). Call in number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#

The ADF&G Emmonak office is open regular hours; 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.

Subsistence Management Actions

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used during salmon fishing closures to target nonsalmon. 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, it could be further restricted. Fishermen are encouraged to set their nets in areas where they will not catch Chinook salmon, and to release any Chinook salmon that are still alive.

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

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 16, Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch 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. Nets should be set 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 and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch 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. Nets should be set near shore.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman and Coldfoot. 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.

Other gear types for nonsalmon species include hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

As a general reminder, gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. 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 float attached to both ends of the net, plus a third in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length.

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 FSA 2-KS-04-24 with the same fishing schedule that restricts fishing to federally qualified subsistence users 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.

