



## Advisory Announcement

## CONTACT:

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

### 2024 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #11 Summer Update # 3, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2024 Chinook salmon forecast is for a run that is well below average and unlikely to meet escapement objectives or provide for harvest. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach, subsistence fishing closures have been announced in districts and subdistricts up through 5-ABC.

To further protect Chinook salmon, all gillnets must be removed from the water for a two-week period in each district during the run. The closures of 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets have been announced up through District 3 and the Innoko River. These closures are intended to protect all Chinook salmon stocks while they migrate upriver to spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada. Please call the toll-free hotline number if you have any questions about fishing in your area: 1-866-479-7387. This hotline is updated after every announcement.

The summer chum salmon run is being assessed as it enters the river. When the summer chum salmon run is projected to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal (at least 500,000 fish), fishing opportunities with selective gear types may be announced.

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

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.

### Assessment Projects

All assessment data is updated with data through June 17.

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

Summer chum salmon drifts with 5.5-inch gillnets began on June 4 for both the Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites. The first summer chum salmon were caught in Big Eddy on the morning of June 10. As of June 17, the cumulative combined CPUE for both sites is 96.45 which is below the historic median cumulative CPUE of 467.24.

To reduce mortalities, LYTF will not operate for Chinook salmon this year. Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to communities.

Data collected from summer chum salmon will include ASL (Age, Sex, and Length). A few summer chum salmon caught in LYTF will be sampled this year for other fish health research.

#### Pilot Station Sonar

Pilot Station Sonar began operation on June 5. The first summer chum salmon was caught on June 6, and the first Chinook salmon was caught on June 12. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be  $6,729 \pm 2,616$  fish (90% Confidence Interval) which is below the historical cumulative average of 41,040 fish. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be  $27,120 \pm 5,475$  fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 158,077 fish.

All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery (PSSTF) will be sampled for age, sex, length and genetics. Additional biological sampling will be conducted for all Chinook salmon test fish mortalities as part of a broad collaborative effort to better understand salmon health and potential drivers of *en route* mortality and low productivity. Additional samples will include otoliths, heart, kidney, liver, intestine, eggs, blood, muscle biopsy, and fat content. The PSSTF heart samples will be used by ADF&G and USFWS, along with samples from other locations, to investigate the potential for *Ichthyophonus* associated mortality. Kidney samples from PSSTF are being tested for proliferative kidney disease. Fish health results will be available post season.

#### Chinook Radio Telemetry (ADF&G)

2024 is the second year of a three-year effort to capture and tag up to 500 Chinook salmon near Emmonak and track upriver migration to evaluate concerns for *en route* mortality. The first fish was tagged on June 10, and tagged fish are migrating upriver. Tagging has been successful to date and deployed tags appear to be proportional to the Canadian-origin run based on historical run timing. 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. More information about the project can be found on posters in communities along the river or 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.

#### Andreafsky Weir (USFWS)

Crew is on site and working on deploying the weir. High water is affecting installation.

#### Anvik Sonar (ADFG)

Crew is on site and working on deploying sonar units on both banks. High water is affecting installation on one bank.

#### Alaska-based projects that will begin operations later this season:

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

#### **Current Subsistence Management Actions**

As a reminder, all gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. In Districts 3-6, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence and personal use during ice-free months, however nets must have a visible buoy, keg, or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net, plus a third in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length.

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.

**Coastal District and District 1** (from the Naskonat Peninsula to Point Romanof, including the Black River and communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

Currently, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length and must be operated as a set net.

**Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 19 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 3 (two weeks), all gillnets must be removed from the water.**

**Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, 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, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.**

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

Currently, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length and must be operated as a set net.

**Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 21 until 8 p.m. Friday, July 5 (two weeks), all gillnets must be removed from the water.**

**Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, 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, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.**

**District 3** (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

Currently, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length and must be operated as a set net.

**Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 24 until 8 p.m. Monday, July 8, all gillnets must be removed from the water.**

**Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, 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, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.**

**Innoko River** (community of Shageluk):

Currently, gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length and must be operated as a set net.

**Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 26 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, all gillnets must be removed from the water.**

**Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, 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, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.**

**District 4** (including Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk, Galena and Ruby):

Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fishing for nonsalmon is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh 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 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.

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

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 23, 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.**

**Subdistrict 5-D** (including Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Central, and Eagle):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week 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 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/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/).

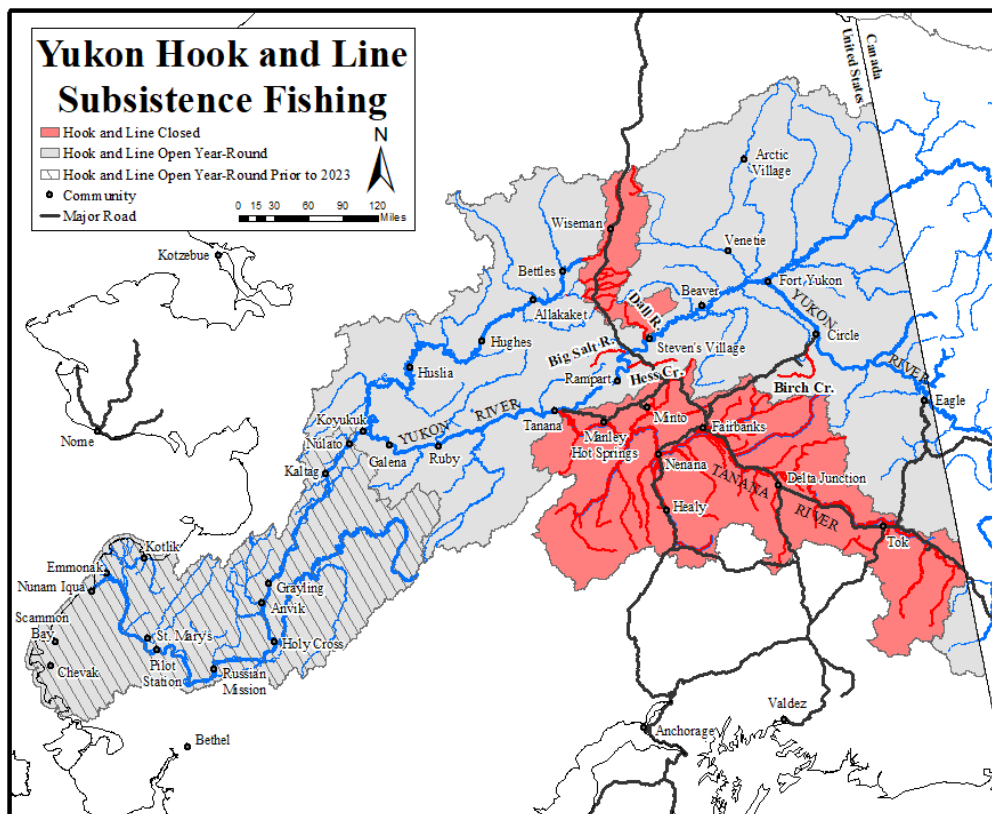


Figure 1. Areas where hook and line are legal as a subsistence fishing gear type in the Yukon Area (gray shaded areas). Closed areas for subsistence fishing with hook and line (red/darker shaded areas) include the Tanana River drainage, Big Salt River, Hess Creek, Dall River drainage, Birch Creek upstream of the Steese Highway bridge, Fish Creek drainage upstream from the mouth of Bonanza Creek, Bonanza Creek drainage, Kanuti River drainage upstream from a point 5 miles downstream of the state highway crossing, and Jim River drainage.

**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 previously issued separate Federal special actions 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](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions).

ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on [www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/](http://www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/) and shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG](https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG).

