

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 6
District 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area**

The preseason outlook for Chinook salmon is for a run size similar to last year of 130,000 to 175,000 fish. A precautionary management approach is being taken to restrict the harvest of Chinook salmon until inseason assessment indicates that escapement goals will be met and a reduced subsistence harvest can be supported. The department closed subsistence fishing in the Northern Portion of the Coastal District and in Districts 1 and 2 for Chinook salmon to protect the early trickle and the first pulse of Chinook salmon.

The preseason outlook for the 2016 summer chum salmon run is projected to be 1.3 to 1.8 million fish and is anticipated to provide for escapement, a normal subsistence harvest, and a commercially harvestable surplus range of 450,000 to 950,000 summer chum.

Assessment information from the Lower Yukon Test Fishery program indicates that summer chum salmon have been moving into the river, but in low numbers over the past week. Chinook salmon have been caught in sufficient numbers in the test fishery to warrant closing District 3 to subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets when Chinook salmon are expected to enter the district. However, given the presence of summer chum salmon, the dip net and beach seine subsistence fishery in District 3 will reopen 24 hours after the gillnet closure. Fishermen should be aware that this subsistence selective gear opening is beginning early in the season to help fishermen prepare, but catches may be low until summer chum numbers increase significantly. Fishermen can call **(866) 479-7387** for recorded Lower Yukon Test Fishery catch information beginning June 1.

The department encourages subsistence fishermen to report their harvest information as well as their encounter rates with Chinook salmon while fishing for summer chum. These reports are useful for managing the early portion of the summer season.

Management Actions

District 3: Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 3, subsistence salmon fishing for Chinook is closed.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 4, subsistence fishing will reopen with dip nets and beach seine gear for 24 hours a day, seven days per week to target summer chum salmon.

Fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from dip nets and beach seines. The requirement to release Chinook salmon alive will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released quickly and unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully. Fishermen are also strongly encouraged to avoid fishing where Chinook salmon may be encountered.

Innoko River: Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week and fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Fishermen should be prepared for management actions that restrict subsistence salmon fishing when the first pulse of Chinook salmon is expected to migrate into the Innoko River.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures in the Yukon Area, gillnets 4-inch or smaller mesh of 60 feet or shorter length may be used for non-salmon species. All salmon caught in 4-inch gillnets may be retained, but fishermen are reminded not to target salmon as this gear is intended for non-salmon species.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 455-1849.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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