



## 2019 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook

The 2019 drainage-wide Chinook salmon outlook is for a run size of 168,000 to 241,000 fish, which may be similar to last year (about 177,000 Chinook). The 2019 run may be large enough to provide similar subsistence harvests to last year. A cautionary approach will be taken early in the season, and management strategies will be adjusted based on run assessment information as fish enter the river.

### 2019 Run and Harvest Outlook for Yukon River Salmon

	Chinook *	Summer Chum	Fall Chum**	Coho
<b>Outlook:</b>	Below Average	Average	Average	Average
<b>Escapement:</b>	Potential to meet goals	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals
<b>Subsistence:</b>	Some restrictions	Expect to provide for normal harvest	Expect to provide for normal harvest	Expect to provide for normal harvest
<b>Commercial:</b>	No directed fishery	Up to 1.2 million available	350,000 to 610,000 available	30,000 to 200,000 available

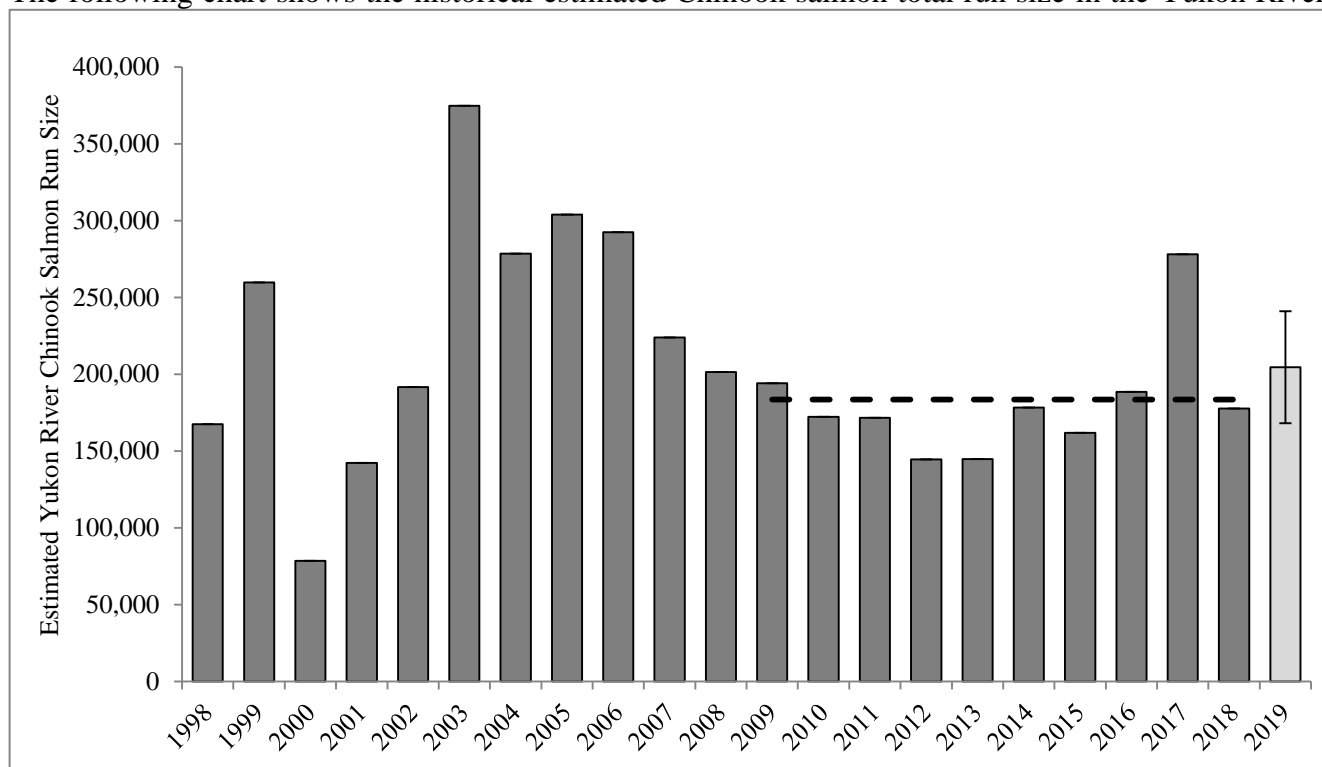
\* *The Chinook outlook is a range that could fall below or above the recent 10-year average run size (see chart below).*

\*\* *Fall Chum projection and harvestable surplus totals will be revised in early July based on summer chum salmon run size.*

### Management Strategies

- The sport fishery for Chinook salmon will begin the season closed (effective May 11) throughout the U.S. portion of the Yukon River drainage, excluding the Tanana River drainage. Chinook salmon may not be retained or possessed. Management actions for the Tanana River drainage will be announced in early June.
- Before Chinook salmon enter the river, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Whenever gillnets are allowed, fishermen may choose to use *smaller* mesh gillnets than specified.
- As Chinook salmon enter each district, subsistence salmon fishing will be provided on a reduced regulatory schedule with 7.5-inch mesh gillnets.
- Commercial fishing for summer chum salmon will begin with selective gear, based on inseason run assessment and processor capacity.
- If inseason assessment indicates a poorer than anticipated run, subsistence fishing gear may be restricted to 6" or smaller and/or periods may be cancelled (similar to last year). If confidence is high that the Chinook salmon run is adequate and escapement goals are likely to be met, the use of 7.5-inch gillnets on a full regulatory schedule will be considered.
- The department may consider sale of Chinook salmon incidentally-caught in the commercial chum fishery. This would only be considered if: assessment indicates the Chinook salmon run size is near the upper end of the outlook range, goals are projected to be met, subsistence fishing opportunity has been provided and restrictions relaxed. Any sale would likely be after the majority of Chinook salmon have passed upriver for escapement and subsistence harvest purposes.

The following chart shows the historical estimated Chinook salmon total run size in the Yukon River.



*Note: Total run size uses the post-season Pilot station sonar estimate and includes estimated escapement and harvest below the sonar. The 2019 bar represents the approximate midpoint of the outlook range of 168,000 to 241,000 Chinook salmon. The dashed line is the recent 10-year average run size of ~ 183,000 Chinook salmon.*

The U.S./Canada Yukon River Panel has established Canadian Interim Management Escapement Goals (IMEG) of 42,500–55,000 Chinook salmon and 70,000–104,000 fall chum salmon. These goals are assessed at the mainstem sonar project operated near Eagle. The Fishing Branch River IMEG of 22,000–49,000 fall chum salmon is based upon the historical weir data. Fall chum salmon escapements to the Porcupine River have consistently fallen short of achieving the lower end of the treaty objective with Canada the last 10 years. Management of the Porcupine River will be based on inseason run assessment and may include subsistence fishery restrictions or closures on the mainstem.

For additional information:

**Toll-free Fishing schedule and fish counts hotline: (866) 479-7387;** in Fairbanks: (907) 459-7387.

**News releases and daily test fishery counts will be posted on Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/](http://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/)

#### **ADF&G:**

Holly Carroll (Chinook and summer chum), Anchorage office: (907) 267-2324;

Jeff Estensen (fall chum and coho), Fairbanks office: (907) 459-7217;

The Emmonak ADF&G office will open June 3: (907) 949-1320.

#### **USFWS:**

Fred Bue, Fairbanks: (907) 455-1849 or (800) 267-3997