Advisory Announcement

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2020 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #19
South Coastal District and Districts 1, 2 and 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The current counts of Chinook salmon at Pilot Station sonar now indicate the run size is projected to meet escapement goals and support some harvest. Genetic results on the early passage of fish indicate that Canadian stocks, in particular, will be strong enough to support these goals. To provide opportunity for summer chum salmon and limited Chinook salmon harvest, fishing is being reopened with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets on a reduced regulatory schedule. Subsistence fishermen may continue to use dipnets and beach seines during gillnet openings and all salmon may be retained.

The restrictions on 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets are also rescinded effective 10 p.m. Monday, June 29. During subsistence fishing closures, fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to target non-salmon in mainstem and tributary waters. The 60-foot maximum length restriction is removed.

Subsistence Management Actions

South Coastal District (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62 degrees North latitude which includes Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay):

Subsistence fishing is currently open and is being extended to the full schedule. Gillnet mesh is still restricted to 6-inch or smaller.

Effective 10 p.m. Monday, June 29, subsistence fishing will remain open. Fishermen may use 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

District 1 and the North Coastal area (from 62 degrees North latitude north to Point Romanof, including the Black River, and communities of Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

Subsistence fishing is currently closed.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 29 until 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, subsistence fishing will open for a previously announced period with dip nets and beach seines. This period is reduced from 36-hours to 18 hours. During this selective gear opening, all Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Effective 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 30 fishermen may use 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for two 18-hour periods per week from

2 p.m. Tuesdays to 8 a.m. Wednesdays

2 p.m. Fridays to 8 a.m. Saturdays

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

Subsistence fishing is currently closed.

A previously announced 36-hour period with dipnets and beach seines from 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 1 to 8 a.m. Friday, July 3 is cancelled. Instead, effective 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, fishing will open with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets on a schedule of two 18-hour periods per week from:

2 p.m. Wednesdays to 8 a.m. Thursdays
2 p.m. Saturdays to 8 a.m. Sundays

District 3 (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

Subsistence fishing is currently closed.

A previously announced 36-hour period with dipnets and beach seines from 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 1 to 8 a.m. Friday, July 3 is cancelled. Instead, effective 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, fishing will open with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets on a schedule of two 18-hour periods per week from:

2 p.m. Wednesdays to 8 a.m. Thursdays
2 p.m. Saturdays to 8 a.m. Sundays

Innoko River:

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

General Reminders:

Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. Beach seine gear may not exceed 150 fathoms in length, 100 meshes in depth, and 4-inches stretched measure. Additionally, beach seines may not be constructed of monofilament webbing. All Chinook salmon must be released alive from dip nets and beach seines.

This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

To reach the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks call 456-0406.

Announcements will be shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG

COVID-19

Under Alaska’s Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska’s Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/.