



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist
907-949-1320 (Emmonak)

Released: June 25, 2024

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

2024 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #16 **Summer Update # 4, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The Chinook salmon run appears well below average and unlikely to meet escapement objectives or provide for harvest. The 2024 Chinook salmon run is close to the historical midpoint (June 25) and tracking similar to the very poor run observed in 2022. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach, subsistence fishing closures have been announced in all districts and subdistricts up to the U.S./Canada border.

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 4 and the Koyukuk 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. The 2024 summer chum salmon run appears to be entering the river within forecast and is currently projected to come in well above the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal range (500,000 to 1.2 million fish). The run timing appears to be late, however it is early in the run to determine whether the run is as late as it has been in recent years.

Reports from fishermen and the Lower Yukon Test Fishery indicate that pink salmon are also migrating upriver. The even year pink salmon returns are typically much larger than odd year returns.

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# (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 24.

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 24, the cumulative combined CPUE for both sites is 759.88 which is below the historic median cumulative CPUE of 1,222.19.

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 13,863 ± 4,226 fish (90% Confidence Interval) which is below the historical cumulative average of 88,586 fish for this date, based on all years, and 43,237 fish based on late run timing years. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be 106,892 ± 10,564 fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 541,215 fish for this date, based on all years, and 175,000 fish based on late run timing years.

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.

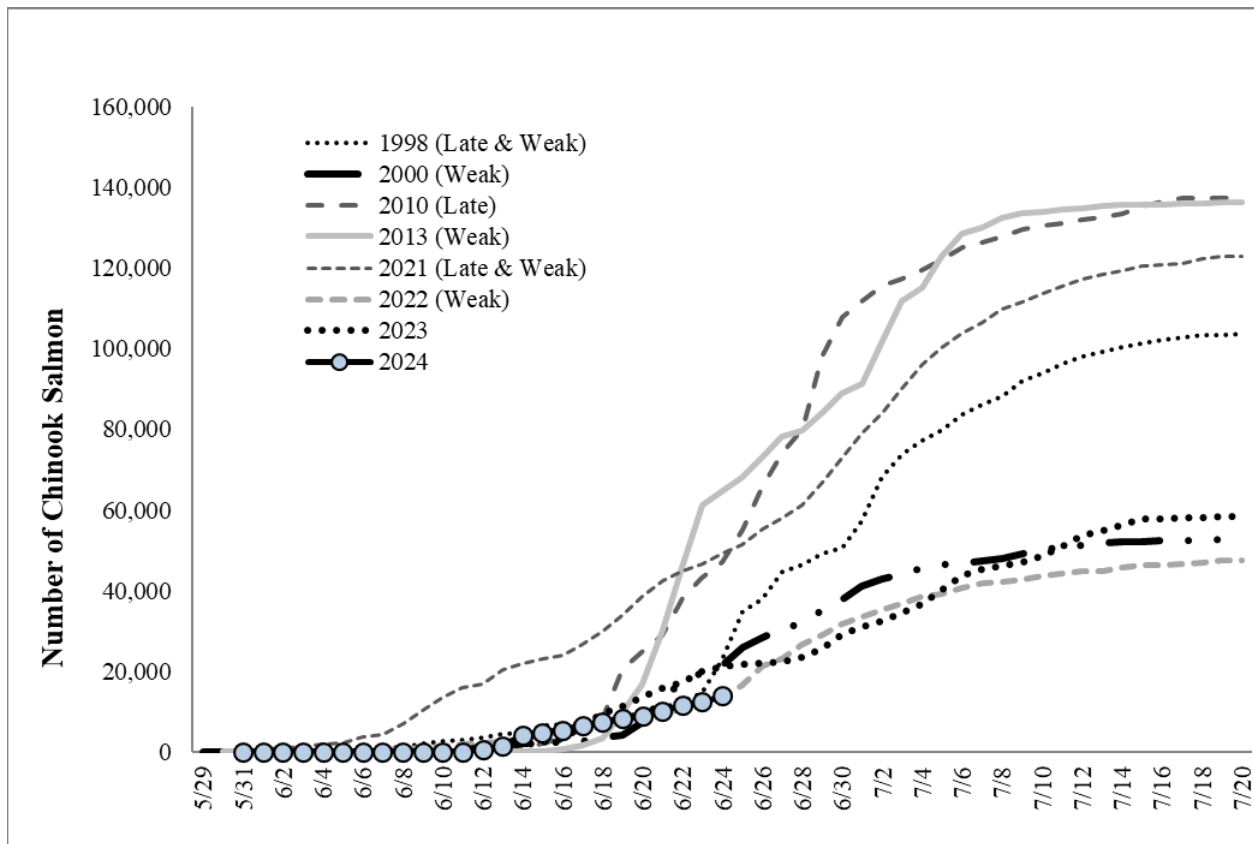


Figure 1. 2024 Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

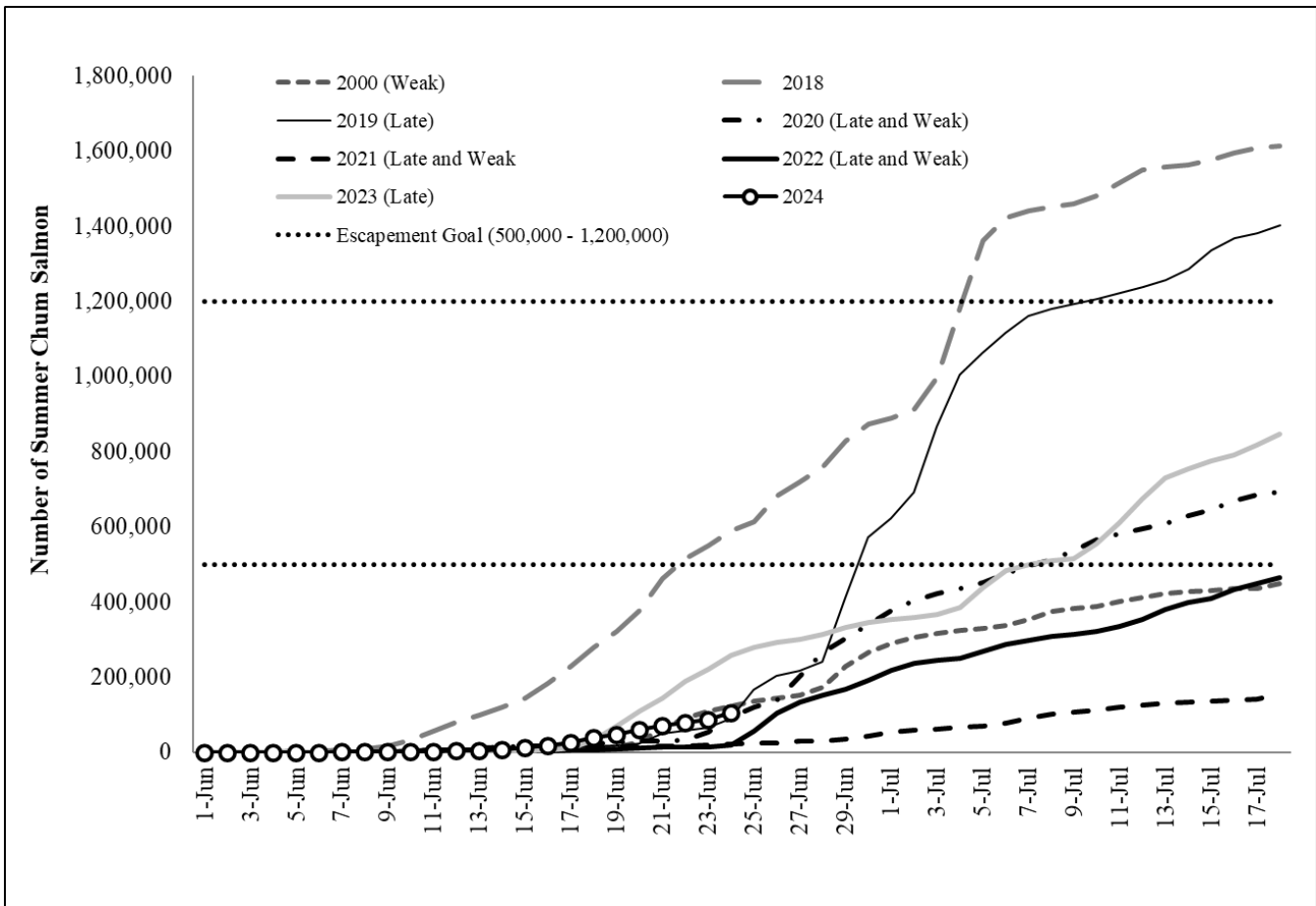


Figure 2. 2024 Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

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. Project should be operational sometime this week.

Anvik Sonar (ADFG)

Counts began on June 16. Cumulative passage is 760 summer chum salmon, which is below the cumulative median of 4,947 fish.

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

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

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 165 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through June 19 was 16% age-4, which compares to a historical average of 36% for this date. The age-5 component made up 81% of the samples, which compares to a historical average of 61% for this date. Of the samples, 3% were age-6 fish, which compares to the historical average of 4% for this date. The age-4 fish average length of 544 mm and the age-5 average length of 561 mm are both smaller compared to average (2014–2023). Female summer chum salmon are similar at 58% compared to a historical average (2014–2023) of 59%.

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):

Fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, hook and line gear) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

As announced previously, all gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh, must be removed from the water until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 3.

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

Fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, hook and line gear) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

As announced previously, all gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh, must be removed from the water until 8 p.m. Friday, July 5.

District 3 (including Russian Mission and Holy Cross):

Effective 2 p.m. Wednesday June 26, fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, hook and line gear) will open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

As announced previously, all gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh, must be removed from the water until 8 p.m. Monday, July 8.

Innoko River (community of Shageluk):

Effective 2 p.m. Friday June 28, fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, hook and line gear) will open for summer chum, pink and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

As announced previously, all gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh, must be removed from the water for a two-week period from 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 26 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 10.

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, including Grayling and Anvik):

Fishing is currently open with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 26 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, but it is limited to 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.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to the tip of Cone Point, including Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, June 30 until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 14, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, but it is limited to 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.

Koyukuk River (including Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, and Coldfoot):

Fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 2 until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, but it is limited to 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.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman. Gillnet gear in the permit area may only be used from August 20 to June 30 and must be $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches or smaller mesh size.

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

Fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 2 until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this two-week period, but it is limited to 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.

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

Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Fishing is currently open with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and other nonsalmon gear types.

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 Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

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. Thursday, June 27, 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 permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-D Lower from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the mouth of Dall River.

Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough, including the Porcupine River, all other adjacent tributaries, and the communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

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 30, 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 Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Circle 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.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, 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 permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

Subdistrict 6-A and Kantishna River (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, and Manley):

Subsistence fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, 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.

Other legal gear types to take nonsalmon include hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gears, except from gillnets.

In Lake Minchumina, effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Subdistrict 6-B and Old Minto Area (from eastern edge of the Kantishna River upstream to the Wood River, including Minto and Nenana):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective 8 p.m. Thursday, June 27, 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.

Other legal gear types to take nonsalmon include hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gears, except from gillnets.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, effective 8 p.m. Thursday, June 27, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. A subsistence pike permit is required, see details below.

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, including Delta Junction area, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Northway, and Nabesna):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, July 1, 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.

Other legal gear types to take nonsalmon include hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gears, except from gillnets.

A reminder to fishermen that a subsistence permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A, 6-B, and Kantishna River drainage), northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage (including Minto Flats), and all species in the Upper Tanana Area. A subsistence salmon permit is not required in Lake Minchumina.

All gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address. In District 6, 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.

Personal Use Management Actions

Subdistrict 6-C (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):

Personal Use salmon fishing is currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels until 12 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, June 26.

Effective 12 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, June 26, Personal Use salmon fishing will close and periods are cancelled until further notice.

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):

Personal Use whitefish and sucker fishing with gillnets and fish wheels follows the Subdistrict 6-C Personal Use salmon fishing schedule and will close at 12 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, June 26 until further notice. Fishing with other gear for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, subject to permit stipulations.

A reminder to personal use fishermen that a personal use salmon permit is required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C and a personal use whitefish and sucker permit is required to fish for these species in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. Both permits require a valid sport fishing license. 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/.

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.

ADF&G Advisory Announcements will be posted on www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov/ and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG.

