



Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

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Released: July 16, 2024

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

2024 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #23

Summer Update # 7, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

As of July 15, an estimated 63,178 Chinook salmon have passed Pilot Station sonar which is well below average and the drainagewide run is unlikely to meet any escapement objectives. Run timing appears to be late, with a midpoint of July 1 or July 2. The inseason Canadian-origin estimated run size of 27,000 (80% CI 22,000 – 34,000) fish is well below the border passage objective of 71,000 fish. To protect Chinook salmon, a two-week closure for all gillnets was announced in each district during the main part of the run. In the Coastal District, Districts 1-3, and Subdistrict 4-A these two-week closures have expired and fishing for nonsalmon with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets has reopened. Nonsalmon gillnets should be set in areas where they will avoid catching Chinook salmon, and all Chinook salmon must be released alive from selective gear and other nonsalmon gear types.

As of July 15, an estimated 733,361 summer chum salmon have passed Pilot Station sonar. Counts at Pilot Station sonar switch to fall chum salmon on July 18. The run is within the drainagewide escapement goal range (500,000 to 1.2 million fish). Timing appears to be late, with a likely midpoint of July 2 or July 3. Selective gear fishing for summer chum has been announced in most districts. Due to the rare occurrence of summer chum abundance and subsistence harvest of this species in Subdistrict 5-D, selective gear fishing for summer chum salmon will not open in Subdistrict 5-D, similar to last year.

The fall chum season will start in the Lower Yukon Area on July 16, and Lower Yukon assessment projects will begin transitioning to fall season counts this week. The 2024 fall chum salmon preseason projection, based on the relationship between summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon run sizes, is for a run size of 405,000 fish. While the run projection is within the drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000–600,000 fall chum salmon, there is uncertainty in the current projection due to lower than expected abundance of age-4 summer chum salmon in this year's run, indicating lower production from the parent year. In recent years, the poorer than average Canadian component of the fall chum salmon run has meant that the Border objectives have not been met, even when the drainagewide escapement goal is anticipated to be met. Depending on the inseason abundance of Canadian stocks, the run may not be large enough to meet the Canadian treaty objectives for fall chum salmon, which are 70,000–104,000 fish in the mainstem Yukon River and 22,000–49,000 fish in the Fishing Branch River. As summer chum salmon currently comprise the majority of the salmon run, subsistence fishing for chum salmon will be allowed during the early portion of fall season. Subsistence fishing for chum salmon will close once fall chum salmon typically arrive in each area until inseason estimates of abundance indicate a harvestable surplus of fall chum salmon is available.

Coho salmon typically enter the Yukon River in mid-August with the bulk of the run passing the Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) between August 16 and 26. The primary parent year for coho salmon this year is from the escapements in 2020. This year's coho run size is anticipated to be below average (average is

222,000 fish). Currently retention of coho salmon is allowed, but if inseason assessment of the run indicates abundance is very poor, restrictions later in the season could be announced.

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.

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.

Assessment Projects

All assessment data is updated through July 15.

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. Drifts were cancelled over several days last week because of poor weather conditions. The final summer chum salmon drifts were on July 15. CPUE index values may not represent the true passage rate because of the missed drifts. As of July 15, the cumulative combined CPUE for both sites is 2,211.68 which is below the historic median cumulative CPUE of 2,799.08.

Drifts for fall chum salmon with 6.0-inch gillnets began on July 16.

Pilot Station Sonar

Pilot Station Sonar began operation on June 5. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $63,178 \pm 14,134$ fish (90% Confidence Interval) which is below the historical cumulative average of 165,402 fish for this date, based on all years, and 129,471 fish based on late run timing years. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be $733,361 \pm 39,016$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 1,573,615 fish for this date, based on all years, and 950,092 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.

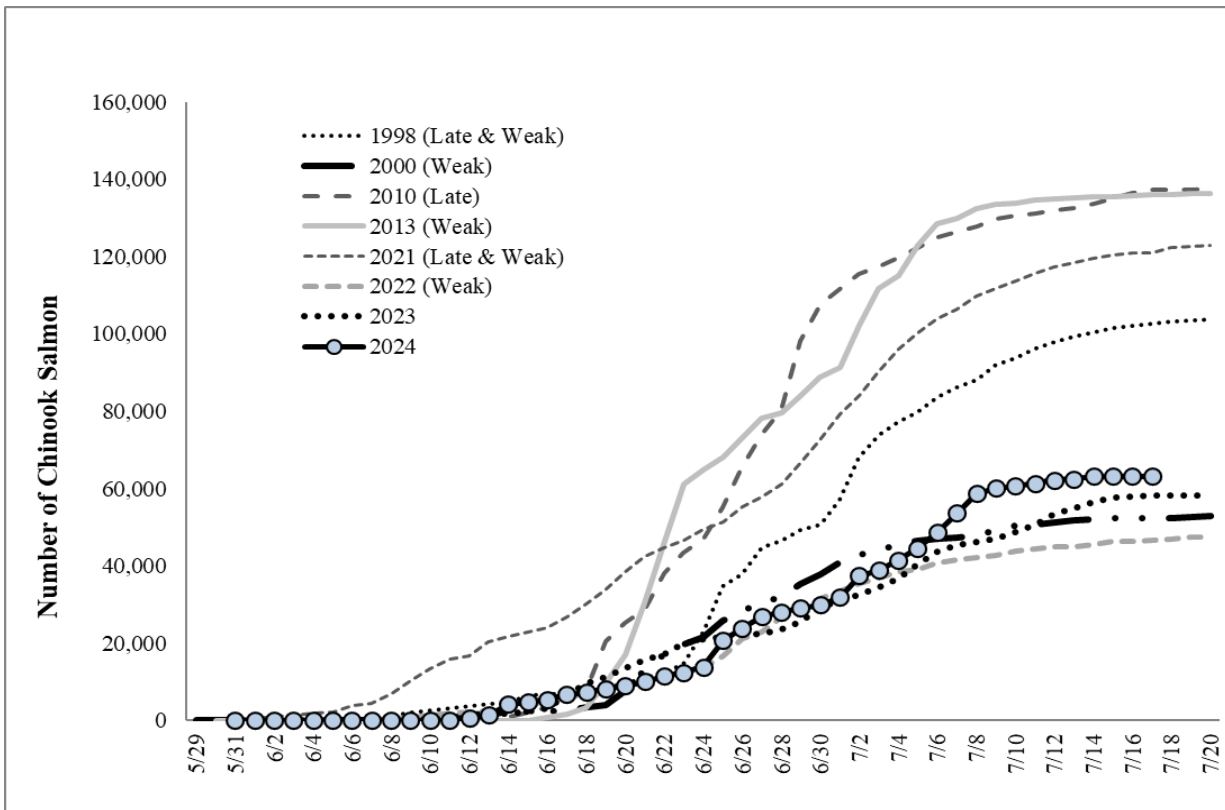


Figure 1. 2024 Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

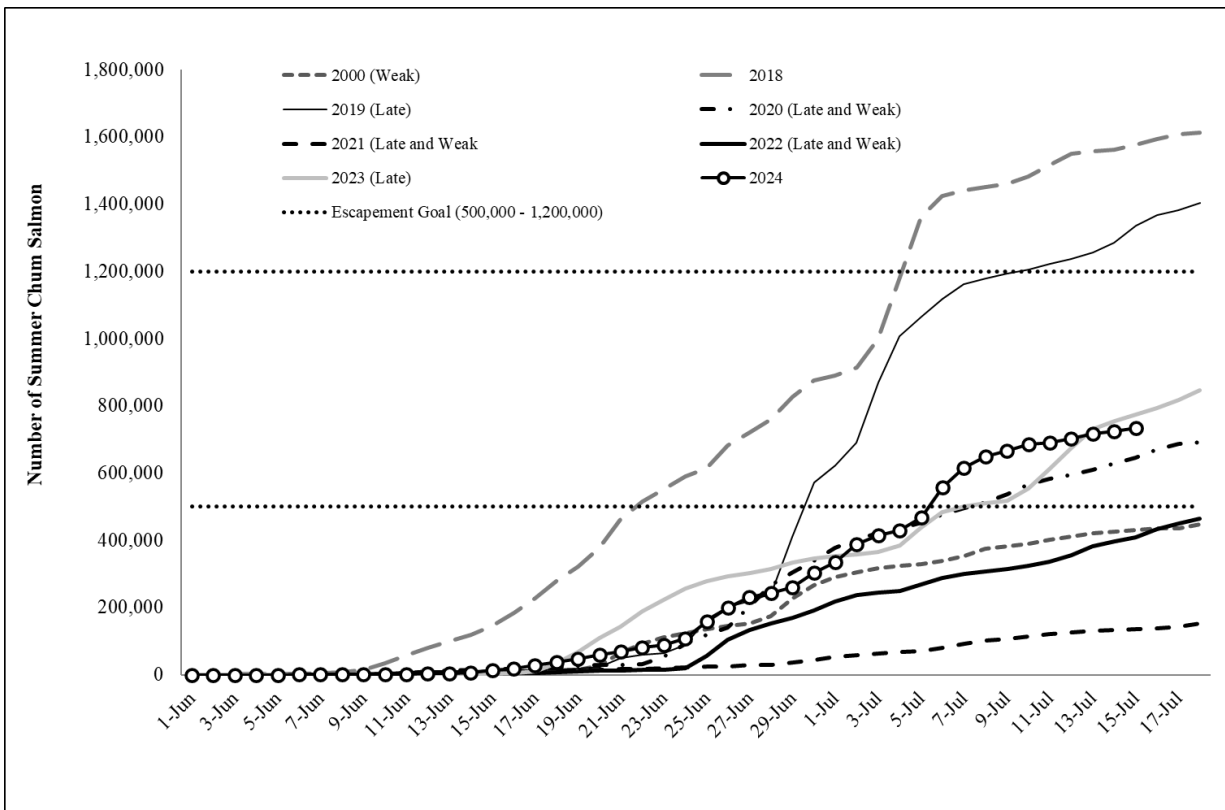


Figure 2. 2024 Cumulative passage of summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar compared to late and/or weak years.

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. Tagging in the lower river concluded on July 12 with over 180 tags deployed but tracking operations are ongoing using remote tracking towers and aerial surveys within both Alaska and Canada. Each fish was 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)

Counts began June 25. Water levels rose over the weekend and the weir is no longer fish tight. Fish are still being observed as they pass through the fish trap, but counts should be considered a minimum estimate. The minimum observed cumulative passage is 22 Chinook salmon, which is below the cumulative average of 2,916 Chinook salmon, and 173 summer chum salmon, which is below the cumulative median of 45,649 summer chum salmon.

Anvik Sonar (ADFG)

Counts began on June 16. Water levels rose over the weekend of July 13 and 14, requiring the need to pull the sonar midday July 14. The cumulative passage as of July 14 was 75,771 summer chum salmon, which was below the cumulative median of 323,975 fish for that date. The sonar units will be redeployed once water levels drop.

Chena River Tower/Sonar (ADFG)

Counts began June 26. Rising water levels starting July 7 prevented visual counts and forced removal of the sonar. Counting has been suspended until water levels drop. Prior to project suspension, a total of 14 Chinook salmon and 12 summer chum salmon had been observed.

Salcha River Tower/Sonar (ADFG)

Counts began June 27. Rising water levels starting July 6 prevented visual counts but the project was still been able to operate using sonar. The sonar had to be removed from the water midday July 12 but was able to be redeployed prior to July 15 Cumulative passage is 88 Chinook salmon, which is below the cumulative average of 2,358 fish, and 68 summer chum salmon, which is below the cumulative median of 118 fish. Counts should be considered a minimum estimate.

Eagle Sonar (ADFG)

Counts began June 28. Cumulative passage is 1,707 Chinook salmon \pm 80 fish (90% Confidence Interval) which is below the cumulative average of 7,886 fish, on this date.

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

No new Chinook or summer chum salmon information for this update.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) on the early group of Chinook salmon (Stratum 1, sampled from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery June 6 to June 23) indicated that $54\% \pm 8\%$ (90% Credible Interval) of this

group of fish were of Canadian-origin. Samples from June 24–July 8 (Stratum 2) indicated that 42%± 7% (90% Credible Interval) were of Canada-origin. The remaining genetic samples will be analyzed post season

The first stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery (from June 5 through June 23) consisted of 99% summer chum salmon, of which, 95% were lower river stocks, 5% were bound for the middle Yukon River, and less than 1% were bound for the Tanana River. The lower summer stocks are above average while the middle river and Tanana River components are below average for this time period. The second stratum of chum genetic samples from June 24 through July 7 are currently being processed in the lab and the results are expected to be available tomorrow, look for them in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe:

<http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>.

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.

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 for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 26, Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from selective gear.

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.

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, for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 29, Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from selective gear.

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.

District 3 and the Innoko River (including Russian Mission, Holy Cross, and Shageluk):

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 for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive from selective gear.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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. **After 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, 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. 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 4-B and 4-C (including Galena and Ruby):

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. **After 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, 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.**

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

As previously announced, all gillnets must be removed from the water for a two-week period until 8 p.m. Friday, July 19. **After 8 p.m. Friday, July 19, 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.**

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, July 19, 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.

Other legal gear types to take nonsalmon include hook and line with a rod or pole, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gears.

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):

As previously announced, salmon fishing is closed and fish wheels are not allowed. All gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh, must be removed from the water for a two-week period until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 23. After 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 23 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 hook and line with a rod or pole, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gears.

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):

As previously announced, salmon fishing is closed and fish wheels are not allowed. All gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh, must be removed from the water for a two-week period until 8 p.m. Friday, July 26. After 8 p.m. Friday, July 26 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 hook and line with a rod or pole, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gears.

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):

As previously announced, salmon fishing is closed and fish wheels are not allowed. All gillnets, including 4-inch or smaller mesh, must be removed from the water for a two-week period until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 28. After 8 p.m. Sunday, July 28 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 hook and line with a rod or pole, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gears.

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):

As previously announced, all gillnets must be removed from the water for a two-week period until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 21. **After 8 p.m. Sunday, July 21, 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.**

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, July 21, fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels) 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.

Gear types remaining open all season for nonsalmon species include dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

In Lake Minchumina subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will remain 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):

As previously announced, all gillnets must be removed from the water for a two-week period until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 23. **After 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 23, 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.**

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 23, fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, and manned fish wheels) 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.

Gear types remaining open all season for nonsalmon species include dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

In the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will remain 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):

As previously announced, salmon fishing is closed and 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.

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, and manned fish wheels) 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.

Gear types remaining open all season for nonsalmon species include dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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):

Effective 6 p.m. Friday, July 26, personal use fishing will open with dip nets and live release fish wheels only on the regulatory schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

6 p.m. Fridays to 12 p.m. noon Sundays

6 p.m. Mondays to 12 p.m. noon Wednesdays

All Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately. Fish wheels must be closely attended.

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):

Subject to permit stipulations, effective 6 p.m. Friday, July 26, Personal Use whitefish and sucker fishing with fish wheels and gillnets will reopen and gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh, 60 feet or less in length, may be used. Fishing with other gear for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day.

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.

