



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release

Issued: July 24, 2024

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**COPPER RIVER PERSONAL USE DIP NET SALMON FISHING SCHEDULE:
JULY 29-AUGUST 31**

(Glennallen) - The Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net salmon fishery will be open continuously from 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 29 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 31. **Retention of king salmon is prohibited for the remainder of the season.** The fishery is open by regulation from September 1–30.

The Copper River personal use fishery is managed under direction of the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 77.591). The plan establishes the season from June 7 through September 30 and directs the department to establish weekly periods based on Miles Lake sonar counts. During July 15 – 21, there were 102,180 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 34,929 salmon, which results in a surplus of 67,251 salmon. Salmon passage has consistently exceeded the daily projection by more than double during this period. The Miles Lake sonar is scheduled to cease operations on July 28, and it is unlikely that salmon passage will drop below the projection for the remainder of the project's operation. Based on the number of Copper River sockeye salmon past the sonar as of July 21, known Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous three-year average harvest and participation rates, sufficient numbers of salmon will be available to justify opening the personal use fishery on July 29 and remain open through August 31. As a reminder, the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan* and the Statewide Personal Use Fishing Regulations state that:

- The annual limit is 25 salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder.
- Personal use fishers must possess **both** their Chitina Personal Use Salmon Fishery Permit and a valid resident sport fishing license when fishing.
- **King salmon and steelhead cannot be kept** and must be returned to the water unharmed.
- You must record your harvest on the permit **immediately**.
- Both tips of the tail fin of personal use caught fish must be clipped **immediately** upon landing a fish. **Immediately** is defined as before concealing the salmon from plain view or transporting the salmon from the fishing site. **Fishing site** means the location where the fish was removed from the water and became part of the permit holder's bag limit.

All Alaska residents qualify to participate in this personal use fishery. You must have a Chitina Personal Use Salmon Fishery Permit and a resident Alaska sport fishing license when dipnetting. Both dip net permits and fishing licenses can be obtained online at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>. A \$15 fee is charged for the Chitina Personal Use Salmon Fishery Permit. Revenue from the fee supports the sanitation services at the fishery and trail maintenance from O'Brien Creek to Haley Creek.

The department urges dipnetters to respect the rights of private landowners in the area and familiarize themselves with the land ownership in the area before fishing. For information on access across private

lands contact Chitina Native Corporation at (907) 823-2223 (<https://chitinanative.com/obrien-creek-permit-program>) or Ahtna, Inc. at (907) 822-3476 <https://www.ahtna.com/lands/land-permits/>.

Additionally, the department urges dipnetters to follow trail signage and stay on designated boardwalks, built to accommodate trail users, including ATVs, constructed along the O'Brien Creek to Haley Creek section of the Copper River Highway Right of Way (ROW). The detours were constructed to avoid disturbing recently identified cultural sites within and along the ROW. Any violation or disturbance to protected cultural sites will result in immediate closure of this access road. For more information visit the Alaska Department of Transportation <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/copper-river-access/> describing the changes to the access route.

Information regarding the fishery can be found at the ADF&G web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreaInteriorChitina.main>. This site provides information regarding the Upper Copper River fisheries including: fishery descriptions and summaries, maps of the subdistricts, and links to the sonar numbers and fishing schedule emergency orders.

The current fishing schedule is announced on the Chitina Fishery information line at 822-5224. Please contact the information phone line prior to planning your trip to Chitina to ensure that the fishery will be open when you arrive. If you have any questions regarding the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery, please contact the ADF&G office in Glennallen at (907) 822-3309.

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