



Advisory Announcement

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2024 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #8

Fall Update # 4, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Based on inseason assessment, the fall chum salmon run size is projected to be below the drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000-600,000 fish. This year's lower than anticipated run size of fall chum salmon is due to the poor returns of dominant age classes, age-4 and age-5. Subsistence fishing with selective gear was allowed in most districts for summer chum salmon early in the fall season until fishing closed to protect fall chum salmon. Fishermen should expect fall chum salmon fishing closures to remain in place for the remainder of the season. Additionally, the Canadian component of the Chinook salmon run will not meet Border objectives, requiring continued closure of all Chinook salmon fishing.

This year's coho run size is anticipated to be below average (average is 222,000 fish). 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 escapements in 2020. 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 YRDFFA 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 the fishing schedule or gear in your area: 1-866-479-7387. This hotline is updated after every announcement.

Fall Assessment Projects

Lower Yukon River Cooperative Fall Drift Test Fishing / ADF&G, YDFDA

Fall season operations began on July 16 using 6-inch mesh gear to target fall chum and coho salmon. Through August 11, the fall chum salmon cumulative CPUE was 443.54, which is below the historical median of 668.45 for this date. The midpoint based on median run timing occurs on August 13 for fall chum salmon at this project. As of August 11, the coho salmon cumulative CPUE was 0.74, which is below the historical median of 62.21 for that date.

Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing / Asacarsarmiut Tribal Council

Fall season operations began on July 18. As of August 11, the fall chum salmon cumulative CPUE was 863.35, which is below the historical median of 1,126.18 for that date. The midpoint based on median run timing occurs on August 10 for fall chum salmon at this project. As of August 11, the coho salmon cumulative CPUE was 3.08, which is below the median of 115.28 for that date.

Sonar Project near Pilot Station / ADF&G

The sonar project operated near Pilot Station transitioned to fall season counts on July 19. As of August 11, the cumulative passage is approximately 123,000 chum salmon. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 332,000 fall chum salmon for this date. The midpoint based on median run timing occurs on August 10 for fall chum salmon at this project. For coho salmon the cumulative passage as of August 11 is approximately 3,738 fish, which is below the median passage of 12,200 fish for this date. The first quarter point based on median run timing occurs on August 16 for coho salmon at this project.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

The sonar project began operations on August 5. As of August 11, the cumulative passage was 1,585 fall chum salmon, which is near the median of 1,823 fish. The Teedriinjik escapement goal is 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon.

Sheenjek River Sonar / ADF&G

The sonar project began operations on August 5. As of August 11, the cumulative passage was 339 fall chum salmon, which is near the median of 402 fish.

Eagle Sonar / ADF&G and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

This project will transition from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon in August.

Porcupine River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

The sonar project transitioned from counting Chinook to fall chum salmon on August 11. The count of 28 fall chum salmon is below the historical average of 203 fish.

Fishing Branch River Weir/Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

This project will begin counting fall chum salmon sometime in late August to early September.

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 280 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through August 10, consisted of 46% age-4 and 53% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2023 historical averages of 65% age-4 and 34% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon was 45% which is below the 2001–2023 historical average of 55%. The average length of 572 mm is well below the 2001–2023 historical average of 584 mm through August 10.

Stock Identification

The chum salmon genetic samples, from July 19 through August 6, are currently in the lab. When results are available, they will be provided in the following weekly advisory announcement or look for them in the ADF&G Yukon River daily update for those who subscribe: <http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/yukonriverdailyupdate>.

Summer Season Assessment

The Chinook and summer chum salmon runs are complete through Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C and management has transitioned to fall season. Assuming late run timing, the Chinook salmon run at Eagle is

estimated to be close to 95% complete. The cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at Eagle sonar is well below average and only larger than what was observed in 2022 and 2023 on this date. Current projections indicate that the border passage goal of 71,000 will not be met. Passage of Chinook salmon at all U.S. assessment projects are well below average and escapement goals were not met.

Summer Assessment Projects

Chinook Radio Telemetry (ADF&G)

2024 was 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 182 tags deployed. 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.

Eagle Sonar (ADFG)

Counts began June 28. As of August 11, cumulative passage is 21,439 Chinook salmon \pm 280 fish (90% Confidence Interval) which is below the historical average of 48,359 fish, on this date.

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 legal gear types to take nonsalmon include hook and line with a rod or pole (excluding District 6), hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, beach seine, and spear. If closures are in place for a salmon species, they must be released alive immediately from nonsalmon gear (other than 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets).

Coastal District, Districts 1-4 (including all communities between Chevak and Ruby):

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

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 South and Middle forks of the Koyukuk River above Bettles, including the community of Wiseman, and Coldfoot. Gillnet gear in this permit area may only be used from August 20 to June 30 and must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size.

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

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

Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 14, Chum and Chinook 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.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in Subdistrict 5-C from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek (Dalton Highway bridge area).

Subdistricts 5-D Lower and 5-D Middle (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to 22 Mile Slough, including the Porcupine River, all other adjacent tributaries, and the communities between Stevens Village and Fort Yukon):

Subsistence salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, August 17, subsistence fishing will open for nonsalmon and coho salmon with dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear. Chum and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

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

Subsistence salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, subsistence fishing will open for nonsalmon and coho salmon with dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear. Chum and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

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):

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

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.

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):

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

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.

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):

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

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 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.

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 open with **dip nets and manned 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.

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, Personal Use whitefish and sucker fishing with manned fish wheels and gillnets is open 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 and gear restrictions, 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.

