



Advisory Announcement

Released: October 25, 2024

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2024 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #25 Fall Update # 14, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

This will be the final weekly update for the 2024 salmon season. The fall chum salmon run is the third lowest on record (1974–2023), and the coho salmon run is also the third lowest (1995–2023). The fall chum salmon run is approximately 200,000 fish compared to a historical run size of 900,000 fish (Figure 1). The drainagewide goal of 300,000-600,000 fall chum salmon will not be met. Upper Yukon fisheries assessment projects were well below average for fall chum salmon, indicating Canadian treaty objectives and tributary escapement goals will not be met. The coho salmon run size based on late run timing is approximately 89,000 fish compared to a historical average run index of 222,000 fish (Figure 2).

As fall chum and coho salmon runs are nearing completion, subsistence fishing restrictions are being removed in most areas based on fall chum salmon travel time. As the drainagewide and tributary escapement goals for fall chum salmon were not met, the Koyukuk, Teedriinjik, Porcupine, Kantishna, and Nenana river drainages will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing through December to protect active spawning fall chum and coho salmon. Upper Yukon fisheries assessment projects are complete and spawning surveys to enumerate fall chum and coho salmon will occur in the Tanana River drainage in October through early December.

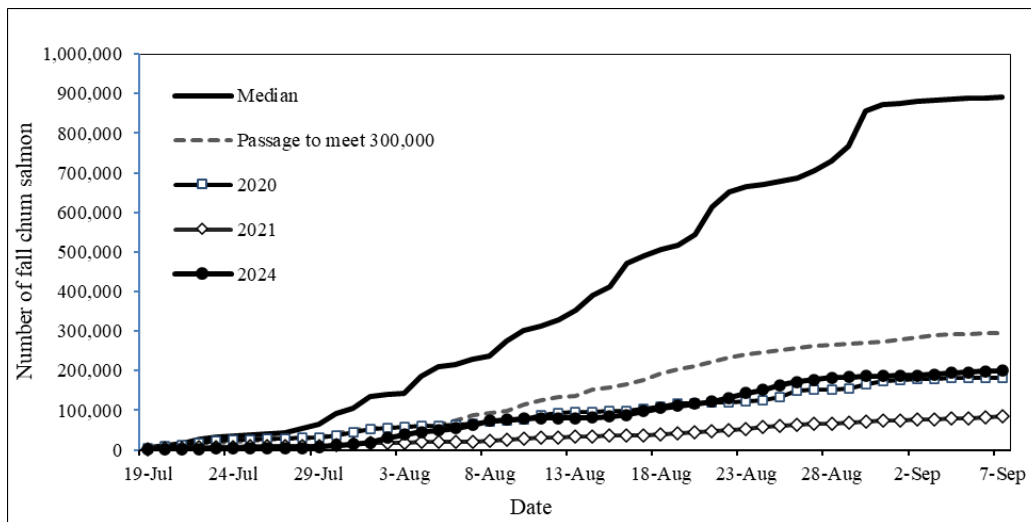


Figure 1. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon using genetic mixed stock analysis applied to the mainstem Yukon River sonar estimates (Pilot Station), and includes estimates of downstream harvests, historical median

and select years compared to 2024. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the drainagewide escapement goal.

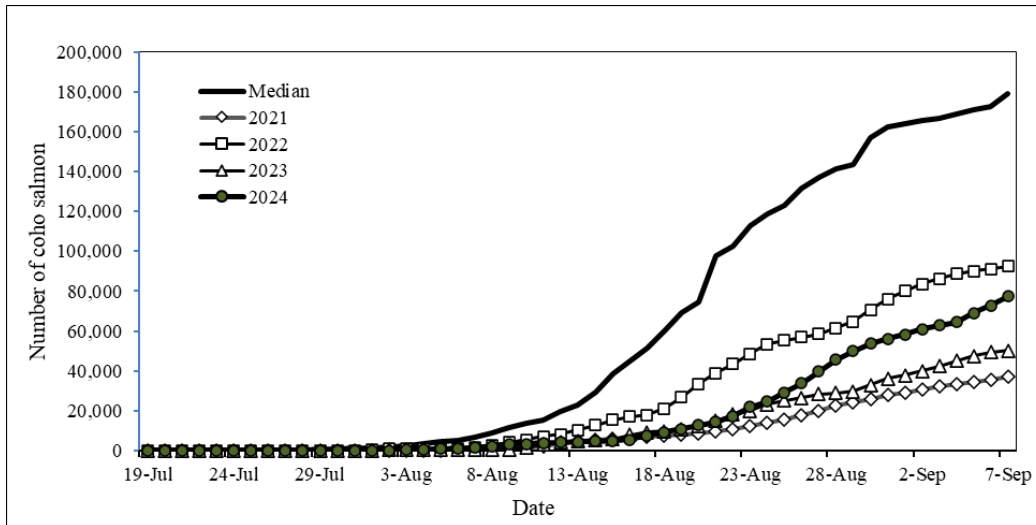


Figure 2. Cumulative passage of coho salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar assessment project (Pilot Station), includes estimates of downstream harvests, historical median, and select years compared to 2024.

Fall Assessment Projects

Daily, cumulative, and historical data for most of the assessment projects listed can be accessed online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts.

Sonar Project near Pilot Station / ADF&G

This project concluded on September 7. Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) was applied to the sonar passage counts and resulted in an estimate of 200,000 fall chum salmon that had entered the river since July 19 (Figure 1). The cumulative passage of coho salmon is approximately 77,000 (Figure 2), which is below the historical median of 138,000 fish.

Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar / USFWS

This project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage of fall chum salmon through October 9, (including a preliminary expansion after sonar operations ceased on September 26), is 58,500 fish. This estimate is below the median passage of 178,000 fall chum salmon. The Teedriinjik escapement goal range of 85,000–234,000 fall chum salmon was not achieved. Run timing was two days late, compared to the median date of September 13.

Sheenjek River Sonar / ADF&G

This project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage of fall chum salmon through October 9, (including a preliminary expansion after sonar operations ceased on September 25), is 14,000 fish. This estimate is well below the median passage of 72,700 fall chum salmon. Run timing was average, compared to the median date of September 15.

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

This project has concluded for the season. The cumulative passage of fall chum salmon through October 18, (including a preliminary expansion after sonar operations ceased on October 6), is 16,275 fish. This estimate is the lowest on record (1980-2023) and well below the interim management escapement goal of 70,000–104,000 fall chum salmon. Run timing was four days late, compared to the median date of September 23.

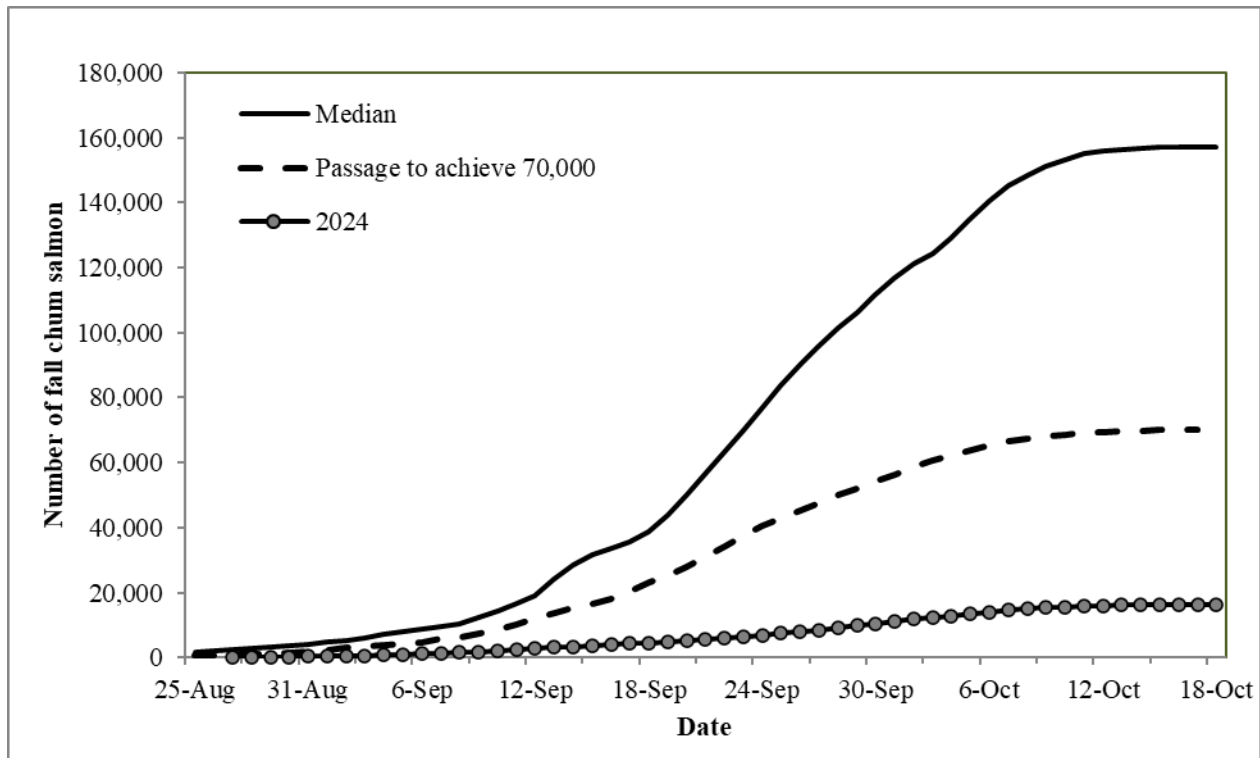


Figure 3. Cumulative passage of fall chum salmon based on the mainstem Yukon River sonar assessment project near Eagle. The dashed line is the passage required to meet the lower end of the Interim Management Escapement Goal.

Porcupine River Sonar / Yukon Territory Canada / DFO

The sonar project concluded counting fall chum salmon on October 3. The cumulative passage was 8,368 fall chum salmon, which is below the historical average of 25,000 fish. Historically the fall chum salmon run is 95% complete by this date at this project.

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

This project is concluded for the season. As of October 15, the cumulative passage was 5,765 fall chum salmon, which is below the median of 24,449 fish. The interim management escapement goal is 22,000–49,000 fall chum salmon for this system. Historically the fall chum salmon run is 99% complete by this date at this project. Fall chum salmon run timing was three days later than the median date of September 22.

Tanana River Escapement Assessment (ADF&G)

Escapement foot surveys (primarily counting fall chum salmon) begin in early October in the Delta River and typically occur weekly through the end of November. The survey count as of October 17 was greater than 4,000 fall chum salmon which is slightly below average for that date. The Delta River is an index of escapement in the Tanana River and has a sustainable escapement goal of 7,000 to 20,000 fall chum salmon. Aerial surveys will also be conducted in various other areas in the Tanana River drainage for both fall chum and coho salmon in late October or early November during typical peak spawning times.

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The preliminary age composition of 577 chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Lower Yukon Test Fish (LYTF) project through September 10, consisted of 64% age-4 and 34% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2023 historical averages of 69% age-4 and 28% age-5. The percentage of female chum salmon

through September 10 was 44% which is below the 2001–2023 historical average of 59%. The average length from 596 fall chum salmon of 572 mm is well below the 2001–2023 historical average of 584 mm.

The age composition of 49 coho salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through September 10, consisted of 27% age-3 and 68% age-4 and 6% age-5 fish, which compared to the 2001–2023 historical averages of 18% age-3, 76% age-4, and 5% age-5. The percentage of female coho salmon through September 10 was 46%, which is comparable to the historical (2001–2023) average. The average length from 56 coho salmon was 553 mm which is below the 2001–2023 historical average of 562 mm.

Stock Identification

The updated preliminary genetic analysis from July 19 through September 7 indicates the fall chum salmon run consisted of 51% Tanana Fall, 35% Border/US, and 15% Canada (mainstem Yukon and Porcupine rivers). The 2024 level of Canadian contribution is well below the historical average of 25%, based on proportions of escapement to the total run size since 1995. Fall chum salmon stocks migrating up the Yukon River mainstem to the Canada border represented only 7%, the lowest on record from the genetic dataset (2004–2023).

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.

Due to the extremely poor salmon runs, subsistence fishing for chum, coho, and Chinook salmon is closed in areas that still have migrating salmon and nonsalmon subsistence fishing time with 4-inch gillnets is reduced in those areas. 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, manned fish wheel, 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, and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (including the Innoko, Anvik, and Koyukuk river drainages and the communities from Chevak through Rampart):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal salmon gear. All fish caught may be retained. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet and will no longer be restricted to being operated as a set net.

The Koyukuk river drainage will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing through December 31. Effective **8:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will be relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (60 feet or shorter). A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the South and Middle forks of the Koyukuk River above Bettles, including the communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot. Gillnet gear for nonsalmon in this permit area may only be used from August 20 to June 30 and must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size.

A subsistence permit is also 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).

Subdistrict 5-D Lower, 5-D Middle, and 5-D Upper and (including the Porcupine and Teedriinjik river drainages and the communities from Stevens Village through Eagle):

Currently, subsistence fishing for chum, coho, and Chinook salmon is closed. Fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear) is open for nonsalmon. Chum, coho, and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon **12:01 a.m. Fridays through 11:59 p.m. Sundays. All gillnets will be closed Mondays through Thursdays until further notice.** Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Effective at the dates and times listed below, subsistence fishing for all species will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal salmon gear. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

Effective **8:00 a.m. Saturday, October 26** in Subdistrict 5-D Lower (Stevens Village and Beaver).

Effective **8:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 30** in Subdistrict 5-D Middle and Upper (Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Central, Circle, and Eagle).

The Porcupine and Teedriinjik river drainages will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing through December 31. Effective **8:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will be relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (60 feet or shorter).

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, and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (including the Kantishna river drainage and the communities from Manley through Nenana), **and the Upper Tanana Area** (including the communities from Dot Lake through Nabesna):

Subsistence fishing for chum, coho, and Chinook salmon is closed. Fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, and manned fish wheels) is open for nonsalmon and pink and sockeye salmon. Chum, coho, and Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon **12:01 a.m. Fridays through 11:59 p.m. Sundays. All gillnets will be closed Mondays through Thursdays until further notice.** Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Effective **8:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for all species will be open 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal salmon gear. Gillnet lengths will no longer be restricted to 60 feet.

In Lake Minchumina and 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.

The Kantishna and Nenana river drainages, excluding Lake Minchumina, will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing through December 31. Effective **8:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 30**, subsistence fishing for nonsalmon will be relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (60 feet or shorter).

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 closed.

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 fishwheels is closed. 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.

Effective **8:00 a.m. Monday, October 30**, personal use whitefish and sucker fishing will open with 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets limited to 60 feet or shorter.

A personal use permit and fishing license are required to fish for whitefish and sucker in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. Permits and licenses are available from the ADF&G Fairbanks office or online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/.

Federal Special Action

ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have coordinated on this advisory announcement. The USFWS Federal Inseason Manager has issued separate Federal special actions with the same fishing schedule and gear restrictions 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 <https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG>.

