



Advisory Announcement

Released: June 14, 2022

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2022 Yukon River Salmon Summer Fishery Announcement #09

Summer Update # 3, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

The 2022 Chinook salmon run size is forecasted to be similar to the 2021 run and unlikely to be strong enough to meet escapement objectives or provide any surplus for harvest. Consistent with the preseason management strategy to take a conservative approach this season, subsistence fishing will be closed during the trickle and first pulse of the Chinook salmon run. Closures in each district are based on average swim speeds.

At this time, counts of Chinook and summer chum salmon at Pilot Station sonar are well below average. The forecast for summer chum salmon is very poor and there is not a projected surplus to allow for harvests, so salmon closures will likely remain in effect through much of the summer season, unless run abundance indicates escapement goals might be met.

The inseason salmon management teleconferences hosted by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) are held Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. This year the calls will focus on relaying assessment and management updates and local concerns. There is important fisheries research being done and the YRDFA teleconference is a great way to discuss all aspects of Yukon River fisheries and to connect with other communities, research projects, and managers all the way up the Yukon River. To participate, call 800-315-6338, and enter code: YUKON# (98566#).

Assessment Projects

All information is current through June 13.

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF)/ ADF&G and YDFDA

LYTF operations for 2022 have been altered. The Middle Mouth set gillnet site is not being operated to reduce Chinook salmon mortalities, but drift gillnet operations using 8.25-inch mesh have been added to obtain Chinook salmon CPUE data from that location. In the South Mouth at Big Eddy, set gillnet operations for Chinook salmon and drift gillnet operations for summer chum and Chinook salmon are unchanged. The Big Eddy Chinook salmon drift CPUE values can be compared to historical averages but the set net data from Big Eddy should not be compared to historical data because it does not include any Middle Mouth set net data this season.

Big Eddy set net site was deployed June 5. The cumulative CPUE for the Big Eddy set net site is 2.38. which is lower than the 2015 – 2021 Big Eddy site only historical average for this date of 6.85.

LYTF drift gillnet operations began on May 26 at Big Eddy for Chinook and summer chum salmon. Middle Mouth Drifts began June 3. Drift sites continue to have issues with wind, rough water and lots of debris. Some drifts have been cancelled due to poor fishing conditions. The Big Eddy cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE in

the 8.25-inch drift gillnet is 7.50, which is below the historic average of 83.04. The Middle Mouth cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE for the 8.25-inch drift gillnet is 1.55, and the combined Chinook drift CPUE is 3.52. The cumulative CPUE for summer chum salmon in the 5.5-inch drift gillnet is 3.09, which is below the historical median of 381.72. While a few summer chum salmon have been caught in LYTF, no large groups have been detected. LYTF data indicates Chinook and summer chum salmon have been entering the lower river mostly in the South mouth, with just a few fish entering the Middle mouth so far.

Any salmon healthy enough will be released alive from the test nets. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to community members by Tribal councils, or on a first come, first-served basis from a public dock. Chinook salmon test fish mortalities will be sampled for genetics, otoliths, liver, stomach contents, intestine, eggs, and muscle biopsy. Measurements will include age from scales, sex, length, and fat content. These samples and measurements will be sent to researchers working on understanding salmon health and body condition. In addition to LYTF, other test fish projects in collaboration with ADF&G and the USFWS are also collecting tissue samples (heart, kidney, eggs, blood draw) from Chinook salmon to test for fish diseases and other fish health related research. Heart tissues are being sampled to test for Ichthyophonus and the kidney is being tested for proliferative kidney disease (PKD). Results will be available post season.

Sonar Project near Pilot Station/ ADF&G

Water levels are reported to be high but may have crested yesterday with lots of debris. The first Chinook salmon was caught in the test fishery on June 7 and the first summer chum was caught on June 12. Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $2,460 \pm 1,045$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative average of 21,984 fish. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be 307 ± 382 fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 39,736 fish based on normal run timing years, and 17,604 fish based on late run timing years.

Andreafsky Weir/ USFWS

Crew are waiting for a wildfire burning on the West Fork of the Andreafsky River near the weir site to die down before setting up the project.

Anvik Sonar/ ADF&G

Crew is on site and setting up camp. They hope to be operational by June 16.

ADF&G and USFWS projects that will begin operations later this season when fish arrive in the area:

Anvik Sonar, Eagle Sonar, Sheenjok Sonar, Salcha and Chena River Tower /Sonar (ADF&G); Gisasa Weir, and Teedriinjik (Chandalar) Sonar (USFWS).

Henshaw Weir (TCC) is not expected to operate this year due to necessary repairs.

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Subsistence salmon fishing is being closed to protect Chinook and summer chum salmon as they begin to migrate upriver. The opportunity to harvest nonsalmon with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is available during salmon closures; however, 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Fishermen should fish this nonsalmon gear in areas where resident species are more likely to be encountered.

Due to the low run sizes, we are encouraging fishermen to target nonsalmon and to release Chinook and summer chum salmon alive from nonsalmon gear types to protect spawning salmon. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Other legal gear types to take nonsalmon include hook and line with a rod or pole (up to and including the Nulato River), hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, and spear.

Coastal District and District 1 (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

Districts 2 and 3 (including Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, and Holy Cross):

Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

Innoko River (community of Shageluk):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 17, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

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

Salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer 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):

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to 60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

Hook and line gear may be used up to and including the Nulato River.

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

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

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the South and the Middle forks of 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):

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

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 17, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon but are restricted to

60 feet or shorter length. Dip nets may be used for nonsalmon, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

District 5 (including Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Central, and Eagle):

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

In Birch Creek, and the subsistence area of Beaver Creek below Moose Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 3 inches.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species of salmon and nonsalmon in portions of Subdistricts 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the Wood River, including Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

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

Kantishna River:

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

Old Minto Area:

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

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):

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

Subdistrict 6-C Salmon (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):

By regulation, Personal Use fishing is open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on a schedule of two 42-hour periods per week from:

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

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

Personal use fishing will close once salmon arrive in the area.

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):

Fishing for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, subject to permit stipulations.

In the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A and 6-B), a subsistence permit is required for salmon fishing. A personal use salmon permit and valid sport fishing license are required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C. A personal use whitefish and sucker permit and valid sport fishing license are required in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the Upper

Tanana Area. A subsistence permit is required for northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats.

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 weekly update announcement. For information regarding Federal subsistence fishing regulations contact Holly Carroll at 907-351-3029.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the USFWS.

The Emmonak USFWS office is not open. To reach the USFWS Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager call Holly Carroll at 907-351-3029.



Federal Special Actions will be posted on www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions and shared on Facebook at www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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