



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2004

Radio Report #2: Broadcast over Nome radio stations KNOM, KICY, and KYUK, June 3 to June 6, 2004.

This is _____ with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with newsrelease for Yukon Area salmon fishermen.

Lower Yukon River test nets were in the water on May 25 and the Pilot Station sonar project was operational as of the May 30 on both banks. The radio-tagging project is also beginning and will be fishing in the near future. The sonar project started earlier thanks to funding from the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association.

District 1 is currently on the subsistence salmon fishing schedule, which is 8:00 pm Monday until 8:00 am Wednesday and from 8:00 pm Thursday until 8:00 am Saturday. Subsistence fishers in District 1 can begin subsistence salmon fishing again on Thursday, June 3 at 8:00 pm for 36 hours.

District 2 subsistence salmon fishers fishing schedule is from 8:00 pm Sunday until 8:00 am Tuesday and from 8:00 pm Wednesday until 8:00 am Friday. Subsistence salmon fishers in District 2 will need to pull their nets out by 8:00 am Friday, then can resume fishing on Sunday, June 6 at 8 pm for 36 hours.

District 3 subsistence salmon fishing schedule consists of two 36-hour periods each week. Subsistence fishing for salmon will be allowed from 8:00 am Tuesday until 8:00 pm Wednesday and from 8:00 am Friday until 8:00 pm Saturday.

Subsistence salmon fishing for the Coastal District is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

A request from the village of Shageluk for 7 days a week subsistence fishing in the Innoko River was discussed and supported by participants during the YRDFA weekly conference call. Because Shageluk residents target local species with larger than 4" mesh size gear, and few salmon are caught, this request was granted. However, if subsistence salmon fishers from Shageluk go to the Yukon River mainstem to fish for salmon, they must abide by the subsistence salmon fishing schedule for District 3.

All subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and fish wheels must be stopped during subsistence fishing closures. Unless the commercial fishing season is opened, fishermen will not have to remove the dorsal fin of king salmon taken for subsistence purposes in Districts 1-3. If the commercial fishing season should open, the marking requirement will be reinstated.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak state Fish and Game office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 949-1798. The Emmonak Fish and Game office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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