

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #10
Summer Announcement #8, Lower Yukon Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area**

Preseason, the 2012 Yukon River Chinook salmon run was anticipated to be poor to below average and fishermen were informed that conservation measures will be necessary to share the available subsistence harvest.

This year's Chinook salmon run timing is tracking considerably later than historical averages. Local reports and satellite imagery are indicating considerable ice is present off the coast that may be inhibiting Chinook and summer chum salmon entry into the river. The historical average first quartile of the run at the Lower Yukon Test Fishery is June 15 while test fishery data is indicating that just now the run is beginning to build. The historical average first quartile for other similar late run years is June 20 and inseason projection estimates suggest the first quartile may even be later than the average for late years. The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 2,500 Chinook salmon through June 16 is well below the historical average of 34,000 for this date and approximately half the average passage estimates at this point for late run years.

Unfortunately, in response to the continued trend of poor to below average runs and the low number of Chinook salmon that have entered the river at this time, it is necessary to conserve the Chinook salmon run to meet escapement needs, share any available subsistence surplus fish, and help rebuild these stocks for future uses.

Based on the poor preseason outlook and the low abundance of Chinook salmon observed to date, subsistence salmon fishing gear is being restricted to a maximum of 6-inch mesh size in Districts 1 and 2 in an effort to conserve Chinook salmon and allow subsistence fishermen the opportunity to target summer chum salmon.

District 1: Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 18, subsistence salmon fishing periods in District 1 will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Mondays until 8:00 a.m. Wednesdays and from 8:00 p.m. Thursdays until 8:00 a.m. Saturdays.

District 2: The subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 17, until 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 19, is unaltered and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, subsistence salmon fishing periods in District 2 will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays and from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays.

District 3: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 3 is open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays and from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays. In District 3, fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Fishermen in Districts 1, 2, and 3 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding changes to subsistence salmon fishing schedules and gear restrictions.

Coastal District: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 949-1798. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

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

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