

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



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Date Issued: May 22, 2008

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2008 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 2
Announcement # 1, 2008 Lower Yukon Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Subsistence salmon fishing in Yukon River Districts 1, 2, and 3 is currently open seven days a week until the regulatory fishing schedule becomes effective. Once the fishing schedule becomes effective, subsistence salmon fishing will consist of two 36-hour periods each week.

District 1: The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on Monday, May 26. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 will be open 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. The first subsistence salmon closure for District 1 will be from 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 28 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 29.

District 2: The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on Wednesday, May 28. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 will be open 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. The first subsistence salmon closure for District 2 will be from 8:00 a.m. Friday, May 30 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 1.

District 3: The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on Friday, May 30. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 3 will be open from 8:00 a.m. Fridays until 8:00 p.m. Saturdays and from 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays until 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays. The first subsistence salmon closure for District 3 will be from 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 31 to 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 3.

Subsistence salmon fishing for the Coastal District and the Innoko River drainage will remain open 7 days a week.

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

Fishers are reminded in **Districts 1-3**, from **June 1 to July 15** a person may not possess king

salmon taken for subsistence uses unless **both tips (lobes) of the tail fin** have been removed. Marking must be done before the person conceals the salmon from plain view or transfers the salmon from the fishing site. A person may not sell or purchase salmon from which both lobes of the tail fin have been removed.

A below average run of Chinook salmon is projected in 2008, similar to the 2007 run. Because of the unexpected weak Chinook run in 2007, the department will be delaying Chinook directed commercial fishing in 2008 until the midpoint of the run to provide for escapement and subsistence needs and Canadian border obligations. At that time, Chinook directed openings may occur if a surplus is identified beyond escapement and subsistence needs. The commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 5,000 and 30,000 fish.

An average run of summer chum salmon is projected in 2008 that will provide for escapement needs and subsistence uses with additional fish available for commercial harvest. The commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 500,000 and 900,000. The actual commercial harvest; however, may be dependent on market conditions and may be affected by a potentially poor Chinook salmon run.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game seasonal office in Emmonak will open for the 2008 season on May 28. Office hours will be Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and closed on Sundays. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Emmonak seasonal office will open on Friday June 6 with the same office hours.

Starting May 28, recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day when calling 949-1731. 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 a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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