

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



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2008 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 16
Announcement # 11, 2008 District 4 Reduced Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The LYTF detected a second pulse of Chinook salmon entering the Yukon River from June 22 through June 24 and a third pulse has been detected beginning June 26 and is continuing through June 28. The cumulative CPUE through June 28 is 16.52 which is below the average of 18.12 for this date. The estimated mid point is June 25 which is two days later than average.

The Pilot Station sonar passage estimate through June 28 is approximately 61,800 Chinook salmon which is below the average of 101,367 for this date. The first pulse of Chinook salmon yielded a lower than expected estimate of approximately 10,000 fish. The department will continue to monitor the second and third pulses detected by the LYTF as they pass the sonar project over the next 4-5 days. The projected total run size based on the Pilot Station sonar estimate ranges from 100,000 to 110,000 fish.

The projected Chinook salmon run abundance may not support subsistence harvests, provide sufficient numbers to meet the interim management escapement goal (IMEG) of >45,000 fish in Canada agreed to by the Yukon River Panel, and may not meet escapement goals in Alaska.

In an effort to conserve Chinook salmon, subsistence salmon fishing periods are being reduced in District 4. These reductions, while unfortunate, are necessary to provide adequate numbers of Chinook salmon on the spawning grounds.

In District 4, subsistence salmon fishing periods will be reduced to two 24-hour periods per week until further notice.

Effective Wednesday, July 2, Subdistrict 4-A subsistence salmon fishing is open from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Thursdays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Mondays. In addition, by regulation, fishermen in Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise

Village and upstream to Cone Point) may use drift gillnets to take salmon on the mainstem of the Yukon River from June 10 through July 14 during the two 24-hour weekly subsistence salmon periods.

Subsistence salmon fishing in the Koyukuk River remains open 7 days per week 24 hours per day.

Effective Sunday, July 6, Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C subsistence salmon fishing is open from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Mondays and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Thursdays. Federal regulations allow the use of drift gillnets in portions of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C classified as Federal waters. Subsistence salmon fishers should consult both State and Federal regulations before subsistence fishing. Subsistence fishers in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C wishing to utilize drift gillnet gear in these subdistricts should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (907) 656-1231 or (907) 949-1798 for the fishing schedule, permit requirements, and gear restrictions.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches must be removed from the water and fish wheels may not be operated.

Subsistence salmon fishers should consult both State and Federal regulations before subsistence fishing. For a recording of the current fishing schedule for your area call 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office at 455-1849 or 949-1798.

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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