

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



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2008 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 22
Announcement #16, Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Reduced Subsistence Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon River

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery detected a third pulse of Chinook salmon entering the Yukon River from June 26 through June 29. The cumulative CPUE through July 4 is 20.23 which is below the average of 20.92 for this date. The estimated midpoint is June 25-26 which is 3-4 days later than average.

The Pilot Station sonar passage estimate through July 4 is approximately 114,000 Chinook salmon which is below the average of 126,000 for this date. The third pulse of Chinook salmon has been the strongest to date with an estimate of approximately 46,500 fish. The department will continue to monitor the run as it moves up river. The projected total run size based on the Pilot Station sonar estimate ranges from 132,000 to 134,000 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 will be reduced to two 24-hour periods per week until further notice. These reductions, while unfortunate, are necessary to provide adequate numbers of Chinook salmon on the spawning grounds.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C: The current subsistence fishing period will close Sunday, July 6, at 6:00 pm. **Effective 6:00 pm, Tuesday, July 8,** the subsistence salmon fishing schedule will be reduced to two 24-hour periods per week. Fishing will be allowed from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Saturdays. **Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C includes Tanana, the Rapids, Rampart, and the Yukon River Bridge area.**

Subdistrict 5-D: The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will continue to remain open 7 days per week until further notice. **Subdistrict 5-D includes the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, and Eagle.**

The next District 5 subsistence fishing schedule update will be made by July 13.

Fishers are reminded that a subsistence fishing permit is required for the entire Subdistrict 5-C and portions of Subdistrict 5-D. Please keep track of your subsistence harvest on your permit or catch calendar.

Additionally, subsistence fishing for non-salmon species, such as whitefish and other non-salmon fish species remains open 7 days per week using small mesh gillnets. Gillnets used for harvesting non-salmon species during salmon fishing closures in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C are restricted to a maximum mesh size of 4-inches. In addition, fish wheels may not be used to harvest any species during the closed periods. All other legal gear types (beach seine, longline, fyke net, dip net, jigging gear, spear or a line attached to a rod or pole, handline, or lead) may still be used to subsistence fish for other non-salmon species.

Fishers are encouraged to consult the State of Alaska subsistence fishing regulations and the federal subsistence fishing regulations before fishing in the Yukon Area.

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

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