

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



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2017 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 18 Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

Current Chinook salmon assessment near the midpoint in the run indicates run strength is similar or better than 2016, therefore subsistence fishing opportunity is warranted. After the first pulse of Chinook salmon has passed through District 4, fishing will open on the regulatory schedule with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh. The intent of this action is to spread harvest across more of the run, providing harvest opportunity sooner after the first pulse than 2016, so fishermen can harvest higher quality summer chum and Chinook salmon while drying conditions are typically better.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C: Subsistence fishing is currently open with dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels only to target summer chum salmon 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All Chinook salmon must be released alive from these selective gear types.

Effective 6 p.m. Sunday, June 25, subsistence fishing with selective gear will close and immediately re-open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the regulatory salmon fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week:

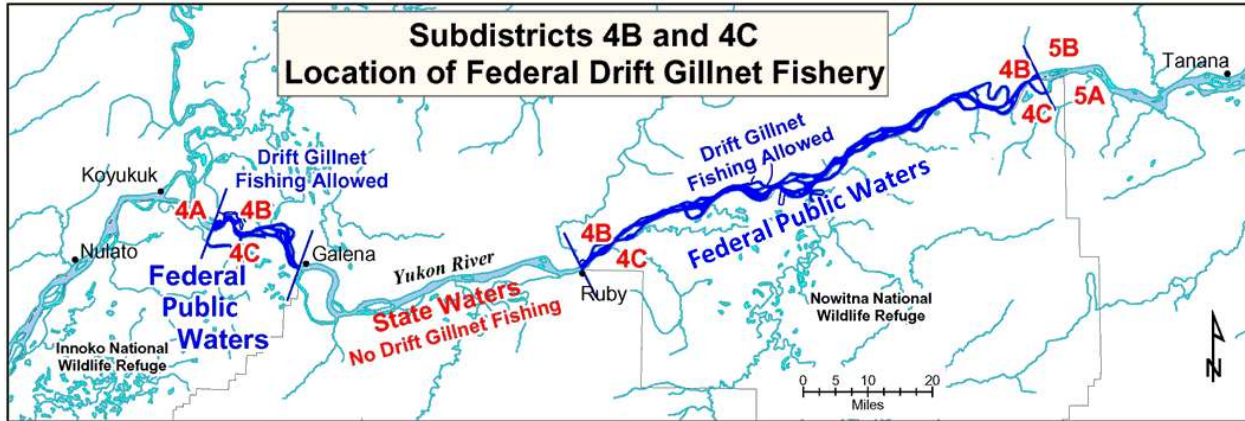
- **6 p.m. Sundays until 6 p.m. Tuesdays**
- **6 p.m. Wednesdays until 6 p.m. Fridays**

Fishermen may keep any Chinook salmon harvested in set and drift gillnets and fish wheels during these periods.

Drift Fishing in Federal Public Waters

Federal regulations allow the use of drift gillnets for the subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon in Federal public waters in Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C from June 10 through July 14 during scheduled gillnet openings. **Federally qualified subsistence fishermen who want to fish**

with drift gillnets in Federal public waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C may do so with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear effective 6 p.m. Sunday, June 25 on the above regulatory schedule. Drift gillnet fishing in Federal public water will be closed during regular subsistence salmon closures. Anyone fishing outside of these areas are limited to set gillnets only.



During fishing closures, fishermen may use gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh of 60 feet or shorter length to target non salmon species. Chinook salmon harvested in 4-inch or smaller gillnets may be kept.

Fishing schedules, test fish catches and sonar counts are available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions, please call ADF&G in Emmonak at 949-1320, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at 949-1798.

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