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



Sam Cotten, Commissioner Scott Kelley, Director



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2017 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 21 Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2017 management strategy is to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon as many of these fish are heading to spawning grounds in Canada. Subsistence salmon fishing to harvest summer chum salmon with selective gear only will be allowed as the first pulse of Chinook salmon travels through the area. Summer chum salmon may be kept, but all Chinook salmon must be released from dip nets, beach seines and fish wheels. After the first pulse of Chinook salmon has passed, fishing will reopen with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the regulatory schedule and all salmon may be kept.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C: Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

As previously announced in News Release 14, effective 6 p.m. Friday, June 23, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets will close. Fishing will immediately reopen with selective gear, including dip nets, beach seines and live-release fish wheels 24 hours per day to target summer chum salmon.

All Chinook salmon must be released alive from these selective gear types.

Effective 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, fishing with selective gear will close, and immediately reopen with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels on the regulatory schedule of two 48-hour periods per week:

- 6 p.m. Tuesdays to 6 p.m. Thursdays
- 6 p.m. Fridays to 6 p.m. Sundays

Chinook salmon may be kept from 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

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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