



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Kevin Duffy, Commissioner
Doug Mecum, Director

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Rowan Gould, Regional Director
Tom Boyd, Asst. Regional Dir. Subsistence

Tracy Lingnau, Area Management Biologist

Russ Holder, Yukon Area Inseason Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2004

Radio Report #1: Broadcast over Nome radio stations KNOM, KICY, and KYUK, May 27-30, 2004.

This is _____ with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with newsrelease for Yukon Area salmon fishermen.

The Emmonak Fish and Game office is now open. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

This year's chinook and summer chum salmon runs are coming off of years with poor escapements. Although some runs have improved in recent years, we still anticipate the recent trend of poor salmon production may continue. Although we are expecting a run similar to last year, the fisheries will be managed conservatively. It is anticipated that the chinook and summer chum salmon runs will provide for escapements, subsistence harvests, and a below average commercial harvest for chinook salmon and a small commercial harvest for summer chum salmon.

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Districts 1, 2, and 3 consists of two 36-hour periods each week. District 1 subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on May 31. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 is allowed 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.

District 2 subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on June 2. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 is allowed 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.

District 3 subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin on June 8. Exact times will be announced at a later date.

Please remember that you can fish through the first subsistence fishing period. For example, in District 1, the subsistence fishing period begins on Monday May 31 at 8:00 pm and ends Wednesday June 2 at 8:00 am. Your nets do not have to be out of the water until Wednesday June 2 at 8:00 am. Subsistence fishing would then reopen at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 3 for 36 hours.

Subsistence salmon fishing for the Coastal District is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

During the subsistence fishing closures, all salmon gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches must

be removed from the water and fish wheels may not be operated during subsistence salmon closures.

Unless the commercial fishing season is opened, fishermen will not have to remove the dorsal fin of king salmon taken for subsistence purposes in Districts 1-3. If the commercial fishing season should open, the marking requirement will be reinstated.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak state Fish and Game office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 949-1798. The Emmonak Fish and Game 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.

___KICY 443-2213

___KNOM 443-5221