



Daily Update

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Kuskokwim River Federal Subsistence Fisheries

This Update provides current information regarding this year's salmon run and current fishing regulations.

August 11, 2016

Current Regulations

The State of Alaska will open Subdistrict 1-A to commercial salmon fishing for 6 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 12, 2016. This area is defined as that portion of District 1 upstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to ADF&G regulatory markers at the mouth of Bogus Creek. **As there are no commercial salmon processors registered in the Kuskokwim Management Area, this opportunity is being provided for those individuals registered with the department as catcher/sellers.** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a new Final Rule on closure regulations and the non-subsistence take of wildlife in Alaska National Wildlife Refuges. To Access the rule and other documents relating to the rule, please visit: http://www.fws.gov/alaska/nwr/ak_nwr_pr.htm. The State of Alaska has rescinded several restrictions to the Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery: Gillnet use in the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, Aniak and Eek rivers; 6-inch or less mesh requirements for subsistence gillnets; and the closed waters at the mouth of the Aniak. Subsistence fishing from the mouth of the Kuskokwim to the Kuskokwim River headwaters is allowed until further notice. Users are required to mark net buoys with their first initial, last name, and address. A dedicated message with current federal regulations can be reached at 907-543-1037, and you can call 907-543-2433 if you need clarification on State fishing regulations.

Biological Update

The majority of Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon have passed the Bethel area. The cumulative CPUE at the Bethel Test Fishery for Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon is higher for each species than in 2015. Cumulative Chinook CPUE at the Bethel Test Fishery was the highest observed since 2009, and cumulative sockeye CPUE was the highest observed since at least 2008. As of August 10, the cumulative CPUE for coho salmon at the Bethel Test Fishery is 1356, compared with 1322 and 2723 on this date in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Moving Forward

As the summer continues, *The Daily Update* will only be posted when new biological information becomes available or new management decisions are adopted and will likely conclude publication on August 12.

Questions?

Call the Refuge at (907) 543-3151 or at (800) 621-5804. Contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 907-543-2433 or 1-855-933-2433 if you have any questions about State fishing regulations.



Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Yukon-Delta-National-Wildlife-Refuge-1039425076133926/>)