



# 2009 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook



This information sheet describes the anticipated management strategies for the 2009 season after discussing options with fishermen during several preseason meetings. State and Federal fishery managers will coordinate management of the Yukon River subsistence salmon fishery.

## RUN AND HARVEST OUTLOOK

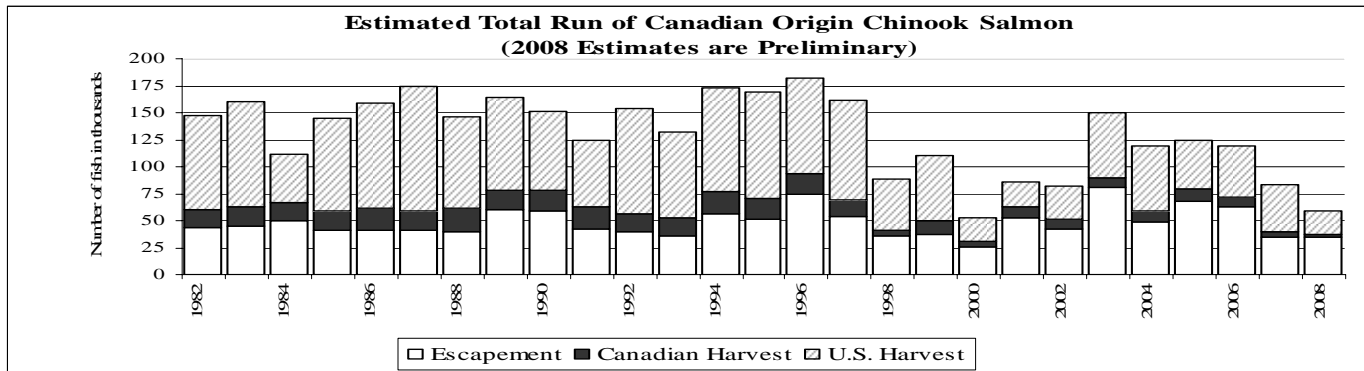
Chinook Salmon	Chum Salmon	Coho Salmon
Below average to poor run is projected.	Near average runs are projected to provide for escapement and subsistence uses.	Average run is projected to provide for escapement and subsistence uses.
Subsistence conservation measures are required to share the anticipated available subsistence harvest and meet escapement goals.	Summer chum commercial surplus is anticipated to be 500,000 to 900,000 fish.	Stock status is stable with good production.
Directed commercial fishery is unlikely.	Fall chum commercial harvest is anticipated to be 50,000 to 300,000 fish.	Commercial harvest is anticipated to be 30,000 to 70,000 fish.

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Initial management will be based on preseason projections and shifted to inseason project assessment information as the runs develop.
- Because of the anticipated poor Chinook salmon return for 2009, it is unlikely that there will be any directed Chinook salmon commercial openings.
- A reduced subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin approximately 7 days after ice out at Alakanuk in Y-1 and implemented chronologically with the upriver migration. If ice out is earlier than average, the schedule may be delayed longer than 7 days; if the ice out is later than average, it may be implemented earlier than 7 days.
- To conserve the greatest number of Canada bound Chinook salmon, there will be no fishing on the first pulse of Chinook salmon. Beginning in Y-1, one to two subsistence fishing periods will be pulled and similarly implemented to upriver fishing districts and subdistricts based on migratory timing. This will be announced by short notice news releases on VHF, radio, and Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) teleconferences.
- The federal manager is planning to implement a Special Action near June 1st which would limit the harvest of subsistence Chinook salmon in waters adjacent to Federal Conservation units to federally qualified rural subsistence users only.
- In the sport fishery for Chinook salmon, the bag and possession limit in Yukon River tributaries (excluding the Tanana River drainage) will be reduced from three to one fish. No retention of Chinook salmon will be permitted in the mainstem Yukon River.
- The Tanana River personal use and sport fisheries will be managed to meet escapement objectives for Chena and Salcha rivers.
- A surplus of summer chum salmon is anticipated above escapement and subsistence needs. However, a directed chum commercial fishery will be dependent upon the strength of the Chinook salmon run.



# 2009 Subsistence Fishing Schedule



The US/Canada Yukon River Panel agreed to a one year Canadian Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) of >45,000 Chinook salmon and >80,000 fall chum salmon based on the Eagle sonar program. The IMEG for the Fishing Branch River of 22,000 to 49,000 fall chum salmon based on the Fishing Branch River weir count will continue through 2010.

A reduced subsistence salmon fishing schedule will be in place early in the season until the salmon run size is projected to be of sufficient strength to warrant relaxing or discontinuing the schedule. The schedule is intended to reduce harvest impacts during years of low salmon runs on any particular run component and to spread subsistence harvest opportunity among users. **Note: this schedule is subject to change depending on run strength and ice out date, as determined at Alakanuk.**

Area	Reduced Regulatory Subsistence Fishing Periods	Approximate Schedule to Begin	Days of the Week
Coastal District	7 days/week with 6" or smaller mesh size gillnets	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
District Y-1	Two 18-hour periods/week	7 days after ice out	Mon. 8 pm to Tue. 2 pm /Thu. 8 pm to Fri. 2 pm
District Y-2	Two 18-hour periods/week	2 days after Y-1	Wed. 8 pm to Thu. 2 pm / Sun. 8 pm to Mon. 2 pm
District Y-3	Two 18-hour periods/week	3 days after Y-2	Wed. 8 pm to Thu. 2 pm / Sun. 8 pm to Mon. 2 pm
Subdistrict Y-4-A	Two 24-hour periods/week	3 days after Y-3	Sun. 6 pm to Mon. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Thu. 6 pm
Subdistricts Y-4-B, C	Two 24-hour periods/week	6 days after Y-4-A	Sun. 6 pm to Mon. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Thu. 6 pm
Koyukuk and Innoko rivers	7 days/week	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
Subdistricts Y-5-A, B, C	Two 24-hour periods/week	5 days after Y-4-B,C	Tue. 6 pm to Wed. 6 pm /Fri. 6 pm to Sat. 6 pm
Subdistrict Y-5-D (Below 22 Mile Slough)	3.5 days/week	4 days after Y-5-A,B,C	Sun. 6pm to Thurs 6am
Subdistrict Y-5-D (Above 22 Mile Slough)	3.5 days/week	7 days after Y-5-A,B,C	Sun. 6pm to Thurs 6am
District Y-6	Two 42-hour periods/week	All Season	Mon. 6 pm to Wed. Noon /Fri. 6 pm to Sun. Noon
Old Minto Area	5 days/week	All Season	Friday 6 pm to Wednesday 6 pm

All subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and fish wheels must be stopped during subsistence salmon fishing closures. In **Districts Y-1, 2, and 3**, from **June 1 to July 15** a person may not possess Chinook salmon taken for subsistence uses unless **both tips (lobes) of the tail fin** have been removed.

### For additional information:

ADF&G Steve Hayes in Anchorage 907-267-2383; Fred Bue, Fairbanks 907-459-7274; or Emmonak 907-949-1320

**Subsistence fishing schedule:** 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call 459-7387

**USFWS:** Russ Holder in Fairbanks 907-455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997; or in Emmonak 907-949-1798