

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



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**2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 1
Board of Fisheries Actions: Yukon Area Salmon Fisheries Summary
Districts Affected: Yukon River Area**

YUKON AREA REGULATORY CHANGES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) recently met in Anchorage March 17–21 to consider statewide Dungeness crab, shrimp, miscellaneous shellfish and supplemental proposals. Two proposals were adopted by the board affecting the Yukon Area subsistence salmon fishery regulations. The following is a summary of the regulatory changes that will be effective for the 2015 fishing season.

Proposal 273 sought to allow subsistence fishermen in the upper portion of Yukon Area Subdistrict 4-A to use driftnets to catch summer chum salmon from July 15 to August 2. This proposal was amended to allow ADF&G (department), by emergency order, to open a summer chum salmon drift gillnet fishery from June 10 through August 2 in the upper portion of Yukon Area Subdistrict 4-A during times of Chinook salmon conservation.

Under the new regulation, fishermen in the upper portion of Yukon Area Subdistrict 4-A, upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek, may use drift gillnets to harvest summer chum salmon, by emergency order, from June 10 through August 2.

All other existing drift gillnet specifications remain unaltered. No person may operate a drift gillnet that is more than 150 feet in length during the season described in the new regulation.

Proposal 274 sought to provide the flexibility to allow subsistence fish wheel fishermen in the Yukon Area to retain Chinook salmon when some harvest is justified based on inseason run assessment information. When a small incidental Chinook salmon subsistence harvest is justified based on inseason run assessment, the department can utilize gear types such as fish wheels and gillnets that are six-inch or smaller in mesh size that primarily target summer chum salmon and minimize Chinook salmon harvest. Previous regulations required that when six-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets were implemented during times of Chinook salmon conservation, then fish wheel fishermen had to man the fish wheels and release all Chinook salmon. Adoption of this proposal allows the department, by emergency order, to implement one or more of the following

gear specifications during times of Chinook salmon conservation: gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh size, fish wheels equipped with a live chute or manned fish wheels, or dip nets. By providing the department flexibility to implement one or more of those gear specifications, the department now has ability to allow subsistence fish wheel fishermen to retain some Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels when an incidental harvest is justified based on inseason Chinook salmon run assessment.

Any questions regarding these regulatory changes can be directed to either Stephanie Schmidt (907) 267-2217 in Anchorage or Jeff Estensen (907) 459-7217 in Fairbanks.

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