



# 2012 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook



This information sheet describes the anticipated management strategies for the 2012 season.

## Run and Harvest Outlook

	Chinook	Summer Chum	Fall Chum	Coho
Projection:	Below average to poor	Average to above average	Average to above average	Average to below average
Escapement:	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals
Subsistence:	Conservation measures necessary to share available harvest	Expect to provide for normal harvest	Expect to provide for normal harvest	Expect to provide for normal harvest
Commercial:	No fishery anticipated	0.5 to 1 million potentially available for harvest	500,000 to 700,000 potentially available for harvest	10,000 to 70,000 potentially available for harvest

## Management Strategies

- Initial management will be based on preseason projections and shift to inseason run assessment as runs develop.
- The regulatory windowed subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin May 31 in District Y-1 and will be implemented chronologically with the upriver migration.
- To conserve Chinook salmon, subsistence fishing on the first pulse will be closed. Beginning in District Y-1 (and the northern portion of the Coastal District), one fishing period will be closed (approximately 5-day closure) and this action will be similarly implemented in upriver fishing districts and subdistricts based on migratory timing.
- Due to the considerable distance between the upper and lower boundaries in some districts and subdistricts it is anticipated that these areas will be further subdivided and managed separately.
- If inseason assessment indicates Chinook salmon run strength continues to be poor after the first pulse closure, an additional subsistence fishing period may be closed or fishing time may be reduced.
- In the sport fishery, retention of Chinook salmon will not be permitted in the mainstem Yukon River. In the Yukon River tributaries (excluding the Tanana River drainage) the Chinook salmon bag and possession limit will be reduced from three to one fish.
- All Tanana River fisheries will be managed to meet Chinook salmon escapement goals for the Chena and Salcha rivers.
- Chinook salmon directed commercial fishing is not anticipated.
- A surplus of summer chum salmon is anticipated above escapement and subsistence needs. However, the extent of the summer chum salmon directed commercial fishery will be dependent upon the strength of the overlapping Chinook salmon run.
- It is anticipated that the sale of incidentally harvested Chinook salmon during summer chum directed commercial fishing periods will be prohibited.

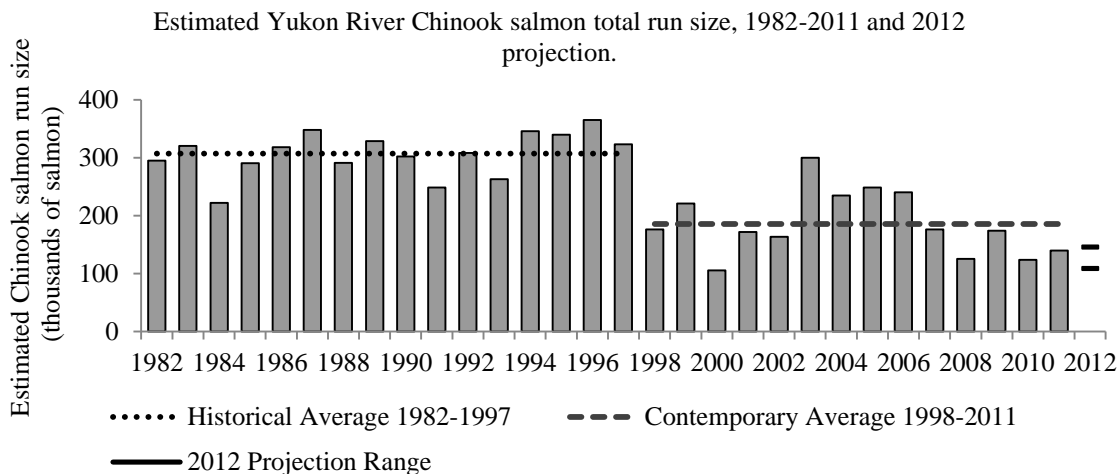
The US/Canada Yukon River Panel agreed to Interim Management Escapement Goals (IMEG) of 42,500-55,000 Chinook salmon and 70,000-104,000 fall chum salmon based upon the Eagle sonar program in 2012. In addition, approximately 5,000 Chinook and 10,000 fall chum salmon will be allowed to cross the border to fulfill harvest sharing commitments specified in the US/Canada Yukon River Agreement. For the Fishing Branch River, the IMEG of 22,000-49,000 fall chum salmon based upon the Fishing Branch River weir count will continue through 2012.



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The 2012 Chinook salmon projection is for a run size range of 109,000 to 146,000. The following chart shows the historical estimated Yukon River Chinook salmon total run size, illustrating the drastic decline in production beginning in 1998.



The cause of this drop in production remains largely unknown. Though parent year escapement objectives were generally achieved throughout the drainage, Chinook salmon returns since 2007 have been much lower than expected. As in recent years, fishery managers will begin the season using conservative management strategies. One subsistence fishing period will be closed on the first pulse of Chinook salmon and additional periods are likely to be closed or restricted to attain management objectives. The schedule below is subject to change depending upon run strength.

Area	Regulatory Subsistence Fishing Periods	Date Schedule	
		To Begin	Open Fishing Times
Coastal District	7 days/wk	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
District Y-1	Two 36-hour periods/wk	May 31	Mon. 8 pm to Wed. 8 am / Thu. 8 pm to Sat. 8 am
District Y-2	Two 36-hour periods/wk	June 3	Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am / Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am
District Y-3	Two 36-hour periods/wk	June 6	Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am / Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am
Subdistrict Y- 4A	Two 48-hour periods/wk	June 10	Sun. 6 pm to Tue. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Fri. 6 pm
Subdistrict Y-4B, C	Two 48-hour periods/wk	June 17	Sun. 6 pm to Tue. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Fri. 6 pm
Koyukuk and Innoko Rivers	7 days/wk	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
Subdistrict Y-5A, B, C	Two 48-hour periods/wk	June 22	Tue. 6 pm to Thu. 6 pm / Fri. 6 pm to Sun. 6 pm
Subdistrict Y-5D	7 days/wk	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
Subdistrict Y-6	Two 42-hour periods/wk	All Season	Mon. 6 pm to Wed. Noon / Fri. 6 pm to Sun. Noon
Old Minto Area	5 days/wk	All Season	Friday 6 pm to Wednesday 6 pm

For additional information:

ADF&G Steve Hayes, Anchorage 907-267-2383; Jeff Estensen, Fairbanks 907-459-7217; or contact the Emmonak office 907-949-1320.

Subsistence fishing schedule: 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call 907-459-7387.

USFWS: Fred Bue, Fairbanks 907-455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997; or contact the Emmonak office 907-949-1798.