2023 U.S. Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Management

Yukon River Panel Meeting
Agenda Item 2 (b)
April 5, 2023

Presentation by Christy Gleason

Photos by Christy Gleason

2023 Fall Chum Salmon Forecast Summary

Escapement Component	Forecast Point Estimate and Range	Goal / IMEG
Yukon River Drainagewide	251,000 112,000 – 602,000	300,000 – 600,000
CA-Mainstem Yukon River	62,750 28,000 – 150,500	70,000 – 104,000
Fishing Branch River	10,000 4,500 – 24,000	22,000 – 49,000

Forecasts will be revised based on the summer to fall chum salmon relationship in mid-July.

Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan

Fall Chum Salmon Directed Fisheries			
Targeted Drainagewide Escapement Goal	**Projected Run Size**	**Subsistence**	**Commercial/Personal Use/Sport**
300,000	300,000 or less	Closed	Closed
	300,000 to 550,000	Possible Restrictions	Closed
600,000	Greater than 550,000	Open	Open

- 2023: anticipate closures for fall chum salmon fishing.
- Escapement goals not anticipated to be met.

Additional Fall Chum Salmon Management Considerations

- Primary parent years met or exceeded drainagewide escapement goal.
- Unlike summer chum salmon, fall chum salmon were likely not affected by the warm water in Yukon River during 2019.
- Uncertainty in 2020-2022 salmon runs.
- Below average Canadian-origin mainstem and Fishing Branch chum.

2023 Preseason Management Strategies Subsistence Fishing

- Closed to begin the fall season.
- Nonsalmon gear open.
- 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets for nonsalmon limited to 60 feet or shorter in length.
- Selective gear for nonsalmon and pink, sockeye, and coho salmon. Require release of chum and Chinook alive if warranted.
- Start relaxing restrictions October 1, transition date with fall chum salmon migration timing upriver.
- Maintain salmon closures in important salmon spawning tributaries.
- *Adjust management as necessary based on inseason assessment and environmental conditions. Subsistence opportunity on Alaskan stocks would endeavor to provide fall chum salmon passage to the extent practicable to meet Canadian IMEGs.*

Questions?

ADF&G Contacts
christine.gleason@alaska.gov, Area Manager
shane.ransbury@alaska.gov, Assistant Manager
bonnie.borba@alaska.gov, Research Biologist
andrew.padilla@alaska.gov, Assistant Research
907-459-7274

USFWS Contacts
holly_carroll@fws.gov, Subsistence Manager
gerald_maschmann@fws.gov, Assistant Manager
keith_ivy@fws.gov, Assistant Manager
scott_walter@fws.gov, Research Biologist
907-351-3029