



**NOAA FISHERIES**



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## **Run Timing Forecast for Chinook Salmon on the Yukon River**

The forecast calls for the first significant pulse of Chinook salmon to cross the Yukon River Delta around June 9 this year, and the half way point of the run is expected to occur around June 19. These estimates and the numbers behind them were released June 1 in the [2016 Final Outlook and Forecast for Yukon Chinook Timing](#).

NOAA Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, with support from the Alaska Ocean Observing System, use spring weather and other environmental data summarized on the [AOOS website](#) to estimate the arrival of Chinook salmon on the river delta. Spring environmental conditions provided a mixture of early and average timing cues, based on a comparison to the past 55 years. Each year's run timing is determined by factors related to the amount of sea ice cover between St. Lawrence Island and the Yukon Delta, April mean air temperatures in Nome, and average marine surface temperatures just off the delta during May. In the past couple of years, predicted arrival dates were within three days of the actual start of these annual runs.

"We provide information on run timing to managers so they can better manage fishing activities," said Phil Mundy, director of the NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau, Alaska. Knowing if the run is average early or late helps the managers interpret data coming in from early catches of Chinook on the delta. Small catches in the first two weeks of June could mean either a small or big return, depending on the run timing."

More background on the run timing forecast project and the history of the fishery are available online at [Alaska Ocean Observing System](#) and at [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#).

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's mission is to protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and our other [social media channels](#).

The mission of the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) is to address regional and national needs for ocean information, gather specific data on key coastal and ocean variables, and ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data