

# Eagle Fish & Game Advisory Committee

## *Interior Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees*

**Andy Bassich**  
Chairperson  
PO Box 11  
Eagle, AK 99738  
abassich@gmail.com

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

April 26th, 2024

To: Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Subject: Request to close 4" mesh set nets in 5YD for the month of September for conservation and rebuilding of Fall Chum Runs.

Dear Commissioner,

We request to close 4" mesh set nets in 5YD for the month of September, 2024 for conservation and rebuilding of Fall Chum Runs, while allowing 4" mesh to be used in side tributaries of the Yukon River.

Canadian Mainstem Fall Chum Salmon have crashed for the second time in 20 years. These Salmon are critical to the food security and cultural practices for Communities of Tanana upriver to the Canadian border near Eagle.

4 years of closures for both Chinook and Fall chum are having a devastating impact to the upper Yukon River communities.

With the 7-year Chinook Agreement in place for no directed harvest of Chinook salmon river wide, it is Crucial to rebuild Fall chum stocks in the Upper Yukon River. These stocks are the only resource that will be available to the Upper River fishers for the next 7 Years.

5YD is 100% Canadian Stocks. 4" mesh nets are extremely effective in Catching Fall chum salmon. To rebuild these stocks every effort must be made to provide unimpeded upriver migration for this stock.

JTC reports Appendix B16, roughly .02 RPS or 1 recruit per 5 spawners. Dismal numbers

In the Early 2000 Fish replacement for upper Yukon fishers reduced fishing pressures and contributed greatly to a robust and quick rebuild of these stocks. We need this to happen again.

This Action recommendation will occur during the Fall hunting season, which is in place then, and as such most people on the river are focused in this area (5YD) on Moose and Caribou hunting.

This action request is set to coincide with the 2-3 main Pulses of Fall Chum to promote passage of as many Fall Chum as possible for accelerated rebuilding efforts.

Climate change is allowing for later fishing on the Upper Yukon as such that people could still fish late in the season if chum passage was great enough to provide for small Harvest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Bassich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the "A" and a large, looped "B".

Andy Bassich  
Eagle Fish & Game Advisory Committee Chair