



**2014 Outlook and Forecast for Chinook Salmon Timing
Lower Yukon River (Area Y-1), May 31, 2014**

2014 Outlook

The current outlook for 2014 is for an early run, which is consistent with the preliminary outlook issued on May 9. The very warm weather this Spring was marked by a particularly warm April and early break-up of marine ice off the Yukon River delta on May 9, although May sea surface temperature was slightly cooler than the long-term average. Chinook were first reported to be on the delta on May 19. The outlook is for the first significant pulse (15% point) of chinook to cross the delta before **June 14**. It is also highly likely that the half-way point (50%) in the run will be reached sometime before **June 21**. Estimates of the most likely dates on which the 15%, 25% and 50% percentage points in the chinook run will occur on the delta are given in the forecast below.

2014 Forecast

Fifteen percent (First pulse)	Twenty-five percent	Fifty percent
June 11 (10)	June 13 (13)	June 19 (18)

The method of finding the best forecast model in past years was checked by an alternate method and the alternate model results are shown in parentheses above. The models agree closely. A report on statistical methods will be linked to the project web site on June 5. www.aos.org/2014-yukon The forecast models are based on a combination of environmental factors; marine spring ice cover (1970 – 2013), Nome April mean air temperature (1961 - 2013), May mean sea surface temperature just off the delta (1961 – 2013) and on run timing statistics from the commercial fishery and the test fishery (1961 – 2013). See the project data site for the 2014 data and further updates on this forecast, <http://www.aos.org/2014-yukon-chinook-forecasting/>

Historical Comparisons

Run Timing

1961 - 2013	15%	25%	50%
Mean	June 14	June 16	June 21
Range Limits	June 5 - 23	June 6 – 26	June 10 - July 2

Environmental Factors

	Spring Ice Cover %	April Mean Air Temp C	May Mean SST C
2014	36.5	-2.00	-0.56
Average	57.3	-7.13	-0.42
Range Limits	23.1 to 78.4	-17.1 to +1.7	-3.8 to +2.8

Forecasts were prepared by Phil Mundy phil.mundy@noaa.gov and Bryce Mecum using data provided by Will Koeppen and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Reports are posted on the web by Ellen Tyler.