

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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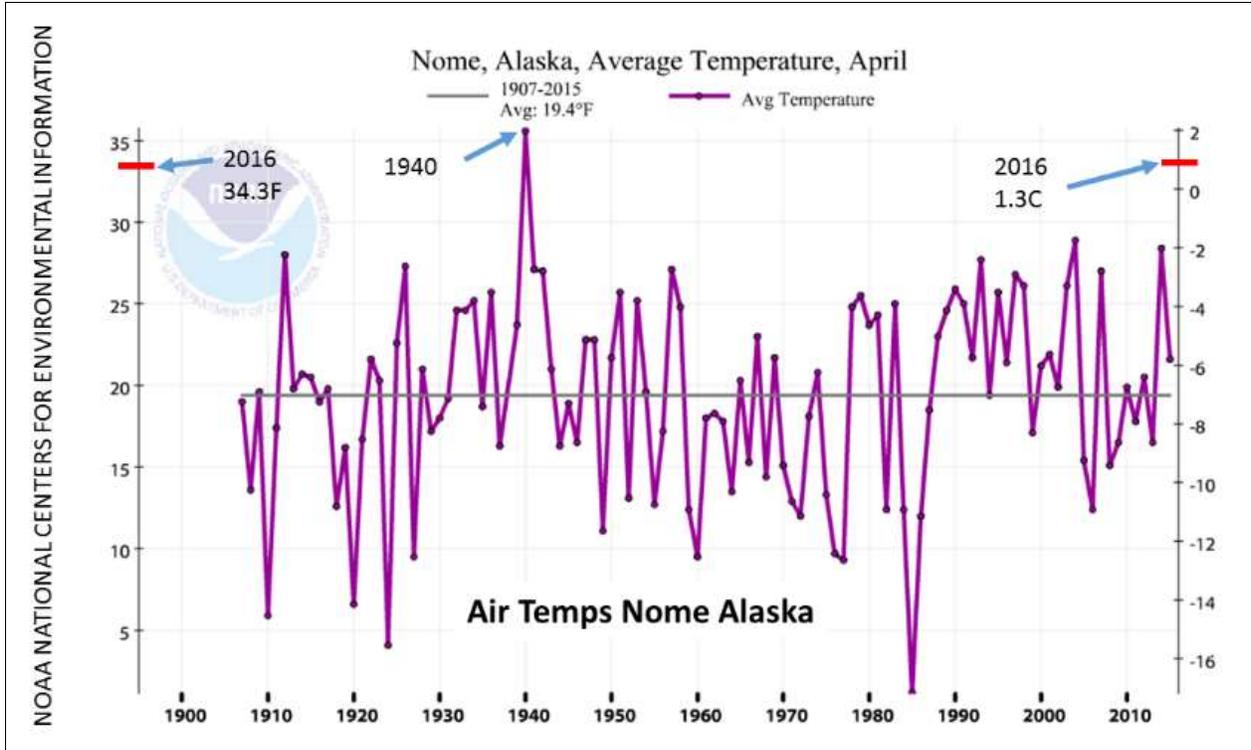
**2016 Preliminary Outlook and Forecast for Chinook Salmon Timing
Lower Yukon River (Area Y-1), May 16, 2016**

Harvesters, managers and the public are advised to be prepared for an early Chinook run on the Yukon delta. The earliest scenario would see increasing numbers of Chinook entering the lower river during the last week of this month (May) with the first significant jump in abundance around the end of the first week in June. The early run outlook flag was set when Nome experienced the second warmest air temperatures for April in recorded history, with the monthly average finishing above the freezing mark for the first time since 1940, and for only the second time since monthly records began in 1907. April mean air temperature is the early warning signal among the climate indicators in the timing models and analysis that provide the qualitative pre-season outlook of Chinook run timing for the Yukon delta area.

The models are updated when new information becomes available, so the outlook could change. Our historical data, which cover the 55 years ending in 2015, teaches us to be alert for the possibility of early runs following warmer than average Aprils. Even so, some late runs have been preceded by warm Aprils, so more information is necessary to make a quantitative forecast. Updated models using measures occurring later in the year along with April air temperature are used to make our predictions more precise. At the beginning of June sea ice concentrations and sea surface temperatures during the month of May will join the April mean air temperatures in the models to provide another outlook and a quantitative forecast of the daily percentages of the run during June and early July. Daily values for all three variables are displayed on the project web site (<http://www.aos.org/2016-yukon-chinook-forecasting/>) along with all outlooks and forecasts.

More information and inseason updates on Yukon Chinook run timing can be found on the Alaska Ocean Observing System website at <http://www.aos.org/2016-yukon-chinook-forecasting/>. Historical climate data back to 1907 can be found on the NOAA website at

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/> and more information on Yukon Chinook timing models and analysis can be found in the following ICES journal article <http://dev.aos.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ICES-JMS-Mundy-and-Evenson-2011-Yukon-chinook-timing-full.pdf>.



Credits

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