



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
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Forest Service

YUKON AREA GILLNET CLOSURE IN COASTAL DISTRICT, DISTRICTS 1 & 2

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 2-KS-05-24

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, June 13, 2024

Effective Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 8:00 p.m. for Coastal District and Y-1
Friday, June 21, 2024, 8:00 p.m. for Y-2
Expiration Date July 3, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. for Coastal District and Y-1;
July 5, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. for Y-2, unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal public waters between the latitude of Point Romanof and the latitude of the westernmost point of the Naskonat Peninsula including those waters draining into the Bering Sea (the Coastal District), and Federal public waters of Yukon districts Y-1 and Y-2 to the use of gillnets of any size for a two week period, when the bulk of the Chinook salmon run is projected to be in these sections of the river. All gillnets must be removed from the water during this gillnet closure period.

Fishing for non-salmon is still allowed during this period, but it is limited to non-lethal gears including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

This Emergency Special Action adds an *additional gear restriction* to Emergency Special Action **2-KS-01-24** that closed the Coastal District and Yukon districts Y-1 and Y-2 to the subsistence harvest and retention of Chinook and summer chum salmon. When Emergency Special Action **2-KS-05-24** expires, fishing for nonsalmon may resume with gillnets limited to 4-inch and smaller, 60 feet maximum length, operated as a set net near shore.

REGULATION:

Pursuant to **02-KS-01-24**, in Federal public waters of the following areas subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and gillnets of 4-inch and smaller may be used to target nonsalmon.

50 CFR 100.27(e)(3) (ii) is further amended to read:

(A) **Coastal District and District 1**, which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik:

(1) **Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 19 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, all gillnets must be**

removed from the water. This measure is being taken in order to protect migrating Chinook salmon from incidental harvest in non-salmon gillnets. Fishing for non-salmon is still allowed during this period, but it is limited to non-lethal gears including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

(B) **District 2**, which includes Mountain Village, Pitka's Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, and Marshall:

(1) **Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 21 until 8 p.m. Friday, July 5, all gillnets must be removed from the water.** This measure is being taken in order to protect migrating Chinook salmon from incidental harvest in non-salmon gillnets. Fishing for non-salmon is still allowed during this period, but it is limited to non-lethal gears including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

JUSTIFICATION:

The drainage-wide Chinook salmon outlook is for a run size of less than 70,000 fish, and the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon outlook for passage at the border is less than 15,000 fish. There is unlikely to be any escapement goals met for Chinook salmon and closures will likely be required for the duration of their migration. Pursuant to Section 816 of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (**2-KS-05-24**) closes all gillnet fishing in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River coastal area, District 1, and District 2 based on recent average run timing for Chinook salmon. These gillnet closures will ensure no incidental harvest of this species in non-salmon gillnets will occur during a two-week period when the bulk of the run is migrating through the area. These closures will be implemented up river based on Chinook salmon migration timing.

CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH:

The Yukon River salmon outlooks and management strategies were discussed at the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council meetings; Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) annual Preseason Fisheries Meeting; at the Yukon River Panel and at the Yukon River Intertribal Fish commission meeting. The Federal manager held formal preseason management strategy Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation meetings with Yukon River drainage Tribal Governments on April 1 and 2. Tribal Consultations will continue when possible and when requested by Tribal Governments. The Federal fishery outlook and management strategy was sent to all Yukon Tribal and City governments on May 10. Approximately 3,500 copies of the ADF&G and USFWS Preseason Outlook flier were mailed to Yukon River fishing households in May.

This action was taken following coordination with the ADF&G fishery managers. The fishing schedules announced here match those issued concurrently by the ADF&G in state waters (Summer Fishery Advisory Announcement #8). The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Chairs for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Councils were notified as was the Chair and vice-chair of the Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission. Review was provided by the Office of Subsistence Management.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

Holly C. Carroll
Holly Carroll
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Yukon River Inseason Fisheries Manager

Northern Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office

For additional information concerning Yukon River Federal Special Actions contact Yukon River Federal Manager Holly Carroll at (907) 351-3029.

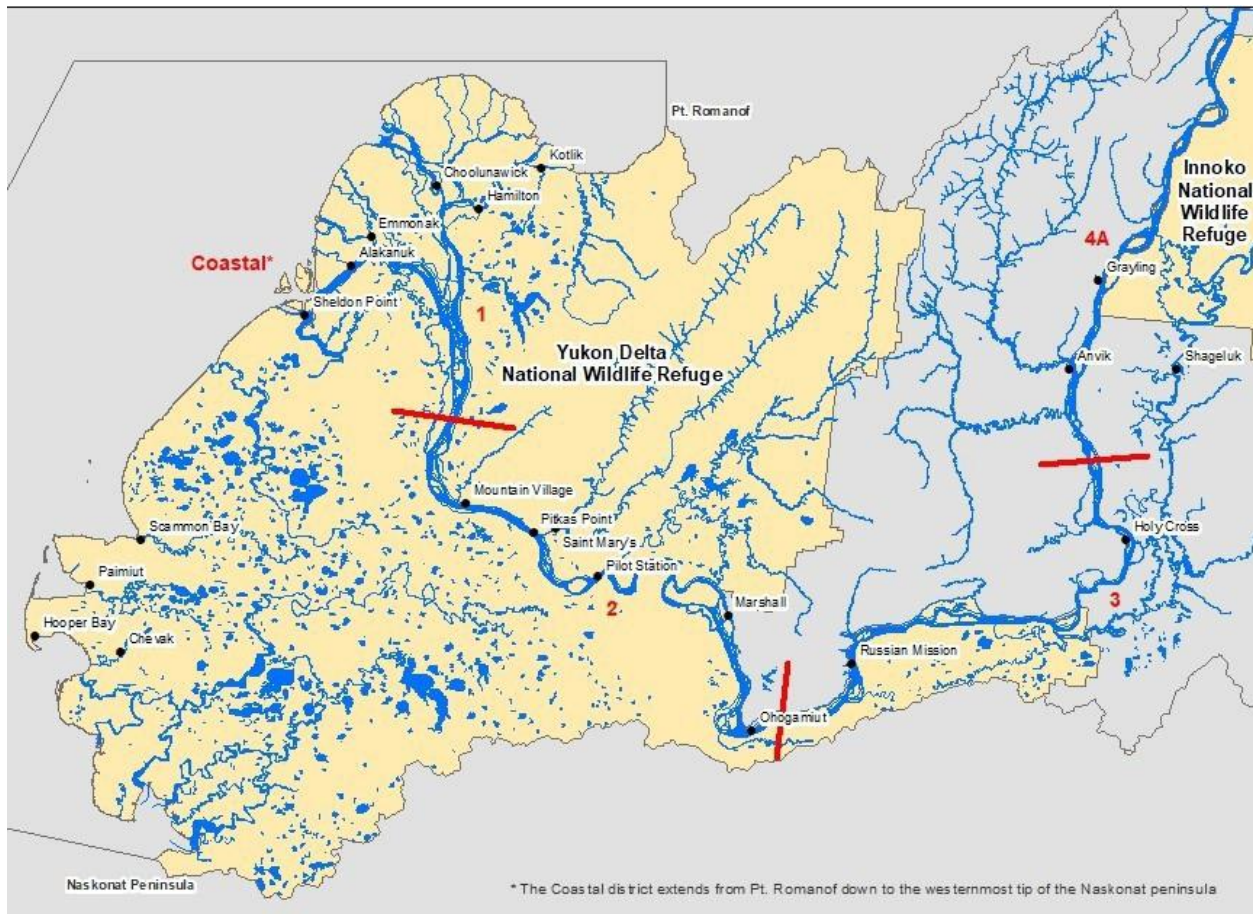
For information concerning State management actions, contact Yukon River Summer Season Manager, Deena Jallen, and Fall Season Manager, Christy Gleason, in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320.

If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov. Fishery special actions can be found online here: <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions>

Information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

See Below for Detailed Maps of Federal Public Waters in the Yukon River Drainage:

Communities and streams adjacent to the boundary of Federal lands are part of Federal waters, even on the opposite side of the river. For those fishing outside of Federal public waters, they do not need to be federally qualified subsistence users.



Yukon River Drainage Area -
Lower River Fishing Districts: Coastal, 1, 2, and 3 **— Fishing Districts**
 Federal Public Waters Jurisdiction

In the Coastal area: Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay communities are in the Federal waters. However, if fishing along the coast in marine waters or bays, that is in State-managed waters. In Districts 1 and 2: all communities are in Federal waters.

DISTRIBUTION:

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Eva Patton, Regional Subsistence Program Manager, National Park Service
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Also distributed to Tribal and City Governments and any interested parties. If you didn't receive this directly and want to, please reach out to Holly Carroll.