



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
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Federal Subsistence Board

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Forest Service

YUKON AREA FALL SALMON CLOSURE AND NON-SALMON SCHEDULE IN COASTAL DISTRICT, DISTRICTS 1, 2, & 3

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 2-FC-01-25

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, July 14, 2025

Effective Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 12:01 a.m. fall chum and coho salmon closures for the Coastal District and Districts 1, 2, 3, and the Innoko River

Sunday, July 20, 2025, 12:00 p.m. gillnet schedule for the Coastal District and Districts 1, 2, 3, and the Innoko River

Expiration Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 12:00 p.m. for the Coastal District and Districts 1, 2, 3, and the Innoko River, unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This **Temporary Special Action** closes the harvest of fall chum and coho salmon for all users in 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 Yukon Districts 1, 2, and 3 (including the Innoko River).

Temporary Special actions **2-KS-01-25** and **2-KS-02-25** that closed the Coastal District and Yukon Districts 1, 2, and 3 to the harvest of Chinook and summer chum salmon and restricted all gillnets to 4-inch or smaller mesh, limited to 60 feet in length, operated as a set net near shore are still in effect. **This Temporary action, 2-FC-01-25 also adds a fishing schedule for non-salmon gillnets** (4-inch and smaller) in order to reduce the incidental harvest of salmon in these nets.

REGULATION:

In Federal public waters of the following areas, subsistence salmon fishing for Chinook and summer chum salmon is currently closed to all users, and gillnets of 4-inch and smaller may be used to target non-salmon 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

50 CFR 100.27(e)(3) Subsistence taking of fish—Yukon-Northern Area is further amended to read:

(ii) **In Federal public waters of the following areas:**

Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, and 3 (including the Innoko River):

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, subsistence fishing for fall chum and coho salmon will close to all users. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive immediately from nonlethal gear types.

Non-salmon fishing:

Effective 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sunday, July 20, all gillnets must be removed from the water.

Effective 12:00 p.m. (noon) Thursday, July 24, fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for non-salmon will only be allowed on a weekly schedule from noon Thursdays until noon Sundays.

Fishing for non-salmon is still allowed during periods of gillnet closures, but it is limited to non-lethal gears including manned fish wheels, 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, chum and coho salmon must be released alive.

JUSTIFICATION:

The inseason Chinook and summer chum salmon runs are very poor, and escapement goals are unlikely to be met, therefore no retention of these species is warranted. The preseason forecasts for fall chum and coho salmon also indicate no escapement goals will be met for these species, and no surplus will be available for harvest. Pursuant to Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), this Temporary Special Action **(2-FC-01-25)** closes all chum and coho retention in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River Coastal District and Districts 1, 2, and 3 (including the Innoko River) due to concerns about the viability of these populations. This Temporary Special Action also places non-salmon fishing with 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets on a schedule, in order to reduce the incidental harvest of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon from these lethal gears. Because there is no conservation concern for non-salmon species, fishing for non-salmon is not being limited to federally qualified subsistence users.

CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH:

The Yukon River salmon outlooks and management strategies were discussed at a public hearing; the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council meetings; the 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 offered formal Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation meetings with Yukon River drainage Tribal Governments upon request. The Federal fishery outlook and management strategy was sent to all Yukon Tribal and City governments on May 23. 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 and/or restrictions announced here match those issued concurrently by the ADF&G in state waters (Fall Fishery Advisory Announcement #1). 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, or Yukon Federal Assessment Biologist Shane Ransbury at (907) 334-5389.

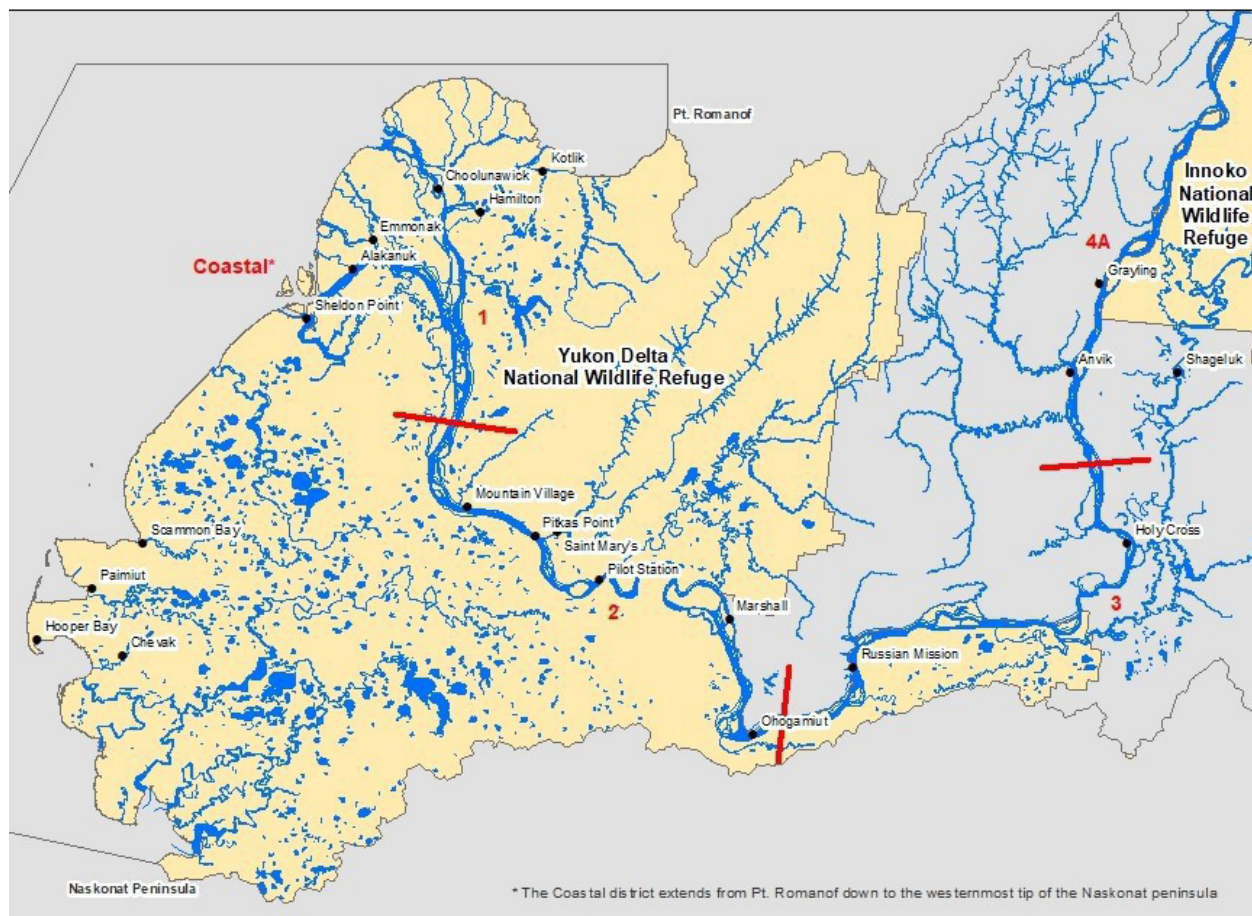
For information concerning State management actions, contact Yukon River Summer Season Manager, Deena Jallen, and Acting Fall Season Manager, Matthew Olson, in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320. For fishing restrictions, schedules and counts for your area please call the toll-free recording: 1-866-479-7387

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.

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

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.



Yukon River Drainage Area - Lower River Fishing Districts: Coastal, 1, 2, and 3

In the Coastal area: Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay communities are in Federal waters. However, bays and coastal marine waters are State-managed. In District 2, all communities are in Federal waters. In District 3, only Russian Mission is in Federal waters. Holy Cross and Shageluk (in the Innoko Drainage) are in State waters.

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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.