



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  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Forest Service

# YUKON AREA FALL SALMON CLOSURE AND NON-SALMON SCHEDULE IN SUBDISTRICT 4A AND THE KOYUKUK RIVER

## TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

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**Temporary Special Action No: 2-FC-02-25**

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, July 21, 2025

Effective Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 12:01 a.m. fall chum and coho salmon closures for  
Subdistricts 4-A Lower and Upper, and the Koyukuk River

Sunday, July 27, 2025, 12:00 p.m. gillnet schedule for Subdistricts 4-A Lower and  
Upper, and the Koyukuk River

Expiration Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 12:00 p.m. for the Subdistrict 4-A, and the Koyukuk  
River, unless superseded by subsequent special action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 from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to the tip of Cone Point, (Subdistricts 4-A Lower and Upper, including the Koyukuk River).

Temporary Special actions **2-KS-03-25** that closed subdistrict 4-A Lower and Upper and **2-KS-04-25** that closed the Koyukuk River 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 Special action, 2-FC-02-25 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:**

**Subdistricts 4-A Lower and 4-A Upper** (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to the tip of Cone Point, including the Koyukuk River:

**Effective 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 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 27, all gillnets must be removed from the water.**

**Effective 12:00 p.m. (noon) Thursday, July 31, fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and manned fishwheels 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-02-25)** closes all chum and coho retention in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River Subdistrict 4-A (including the Koyukuk 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 #2). 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.

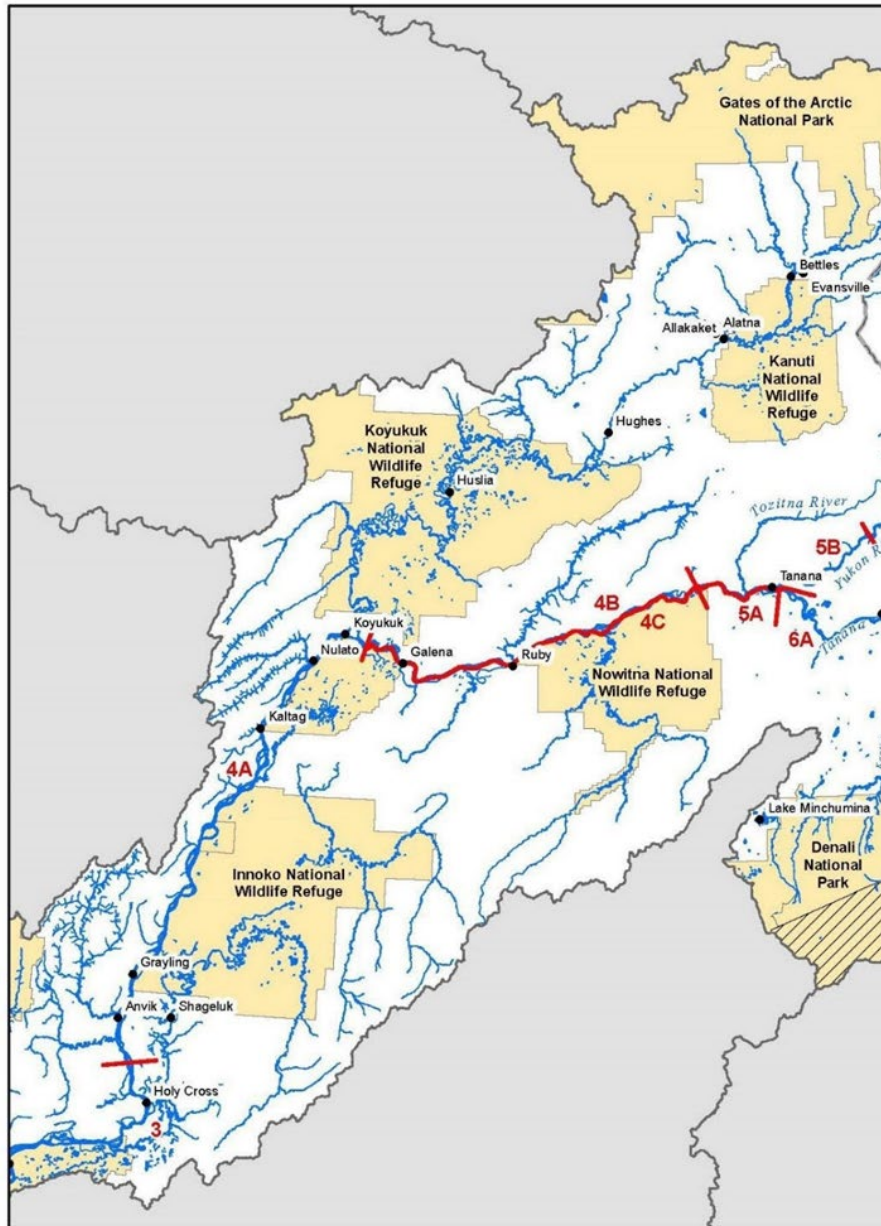
For information concerning State management actions, contact Yukon River Summer Season Manager, Deena Jallen, and Acting Fall Season Manager, Matthew Olson, in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320. For fishing restrictions, schedules and counts for your area please call the toll-free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

Information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence) or by visiting [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

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**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 District 4 and Koyukuk River Drainage

- Fishing Districts
- Closed to Subsistence
- Federal Public Waters Jurisdiction

Within the mainstem Yukon River in District 4, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena and Ruby are in Federal waters and Anvik and the Anvik River are in State waters. Within the Koyukuk River, Huslia falls within Federal waters and Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Evansville, Coldfoot and Wiseman are in State waters.

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

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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.**