

Federal Proposal to Change Fisheries Regulations

Submitted by the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

Docket number: DOI-2025-0071.

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission would like to recognize the customary and traditional use (C&T) of residents who live along the McCarthy Road to Dan Creek and Kennecott.

Currently, the regulation reads as follows:

Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District	Salmon	Residents of Cantwell, Chickaloon, Chisana, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Gakona Junction, Glennallen, Gulkana, Healy Lake, Kenny Lake, Lower Tonsina, McCarthy, Mentasta Lake, Nabesna, Northway, Paxson-Sourdough, Slana, Tanacross, Tazlina, Tetlin, Tok, and Tonsina, and those individuals living along the Tok Cutoff from Tok to Mentasta Pass, and along the Nabesna Road
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The Commission proposes the following regulation:

Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District	Salmon	Residents of Cantwell, Chickaloon, Chisana, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Gakona Junction, Glennallen, Gulkana, Healy Lake, Kenny Lake, Lower Tonsina, McCarthy, Mentasta Lake, Nabesna, Northway, Paxson-Sourdough, Slana, Tanacross, Tazlina, Tetlin, Tok, and Tonsina, and those individuals living along the Tok Cutoff from Tok to Mentasta Pass, along the Nabesna Road, and along the McCarthy Road to Dan Creek and Kennecott.
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Justification:

A grey area exists in the regulation for C&T for the Chitina Subdistrict. Residents of Chitina and residents of McCarthy have had their C&T use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict recognized by the Federal Subsistence Board. Generally, census designated places are used to determine community boundaries. Both Chitina and McCarthy have census designated places. However, there is a considerable distance between the Chitina Census Designated Place and the McCarthy Designated Place, as seen below:

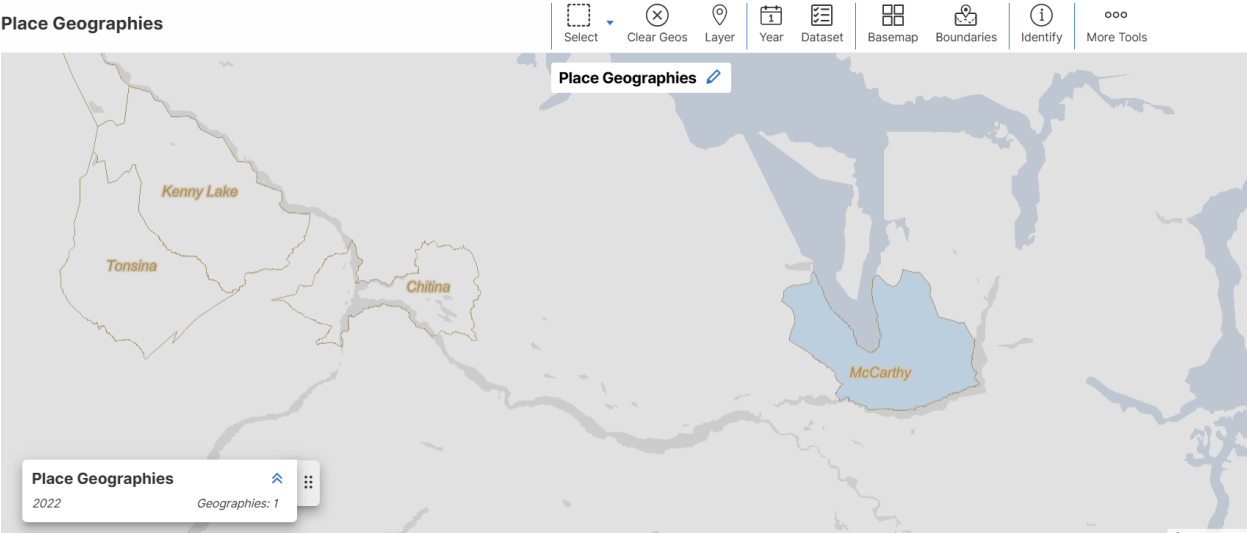


Figure 1. Map showing the Chitina and McCarthy CDPs

Several communities exist along the McCarthy Road, including Strelna, Chokosna, and Long Lake. There are also communities that exist outside of the McCarthy CDP, such as Dan Creek and Kennecott. Field agency staff have issued permits to residents who live in these communities by connecting them to Chitina or McCarthy, but the grey area remains and causes confusion for residents and field agency staff. It would provide clarity by adding these communities explicitly into regulation. These residents have long fished in the Chitina Subdistrict as those waters are close to where they live. Similarly to other residents who live along the roads between communities (such as those along the Tok Cutoff and the Nabesna Road), the customary and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict for these residents should be recognized.