



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



YUKON AREA GILLNET CLOSURE IN SUBDISTRICT 4-A

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
43 CFR 51.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 03-KS-09-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, June 16, 2026

Effective Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 8:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-A Lower
Saturday, June 27, 2026, 8:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-A Upper
Expiration Date: Friday, July 10, 2026, 8:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-A Lower;
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 8:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-A Upper, unless superseded
by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Special Action closes all gillnets for all users in the Federal public waters in Yukon fishing subdistrict 4-A. This action protects the Chinook and summer chum salmon runs. All gillnets must be completely removed from the water. Temporary Special Action **03-KS-03-26**, which previously closed Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing, still allowed use of 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets to target nonsalmon species. This action removes all gillnets to reduce the incidental harvest of salmon during peak passage of Chinook salmon in each area. When this Emergency Special Action expires, fishing for species not closed to harvest may resume with gillnets limited to 4-inch mesh or smaller and 60 feet maximum length, operated as a set net near shore.

During the gillnet closure, fishermen may use selective gear such as, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear for pink salmon, sockeye salmon, and nonsalmon species. If Chinook and summer chum salmon are accidentally caught, they must be released alive.

REGULATION:

Pursuant to **03-KS-03-26**, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is currently closed to all users, and gillnets of 4-inch and smaller may be used to target other species.

36 CFR 242.27(e)(3) and 43 CFR 51.27(e)(3) Subsistence taking of fish—Yukon-Northern Area is amended to read:

§ __.27(e)(3)(ii) *In Federal public waters of the following Yukon River Drainage areas:*

Subdistrict 4-A Lower from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes Grayling:

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 23 until 8 p.m. Friday, July 10, gillnet use is closed for all users. All gillnets must be completely removed from the water.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper from Stink Creek upstream to the tip of Cone Point, which includes Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk:

Effective 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27 until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, gillnet use is closed for all users. All gillnets must be completely removed from the water.

JUSTIFICATION:

The drainage-wide Chinook salmon outlook is for a run size of about 64,000 fish, and the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon outlook is about 27,000 fish. Escapement goals are unlikely to be met for Chinook salmon and closures will be required for the duration of their migration. Pursuant to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, this Emergency Special Action **(03-KS-09-26)** closes all gillnet use in Federal public waters of the Yukon River subdistrict 4-A during peak passage of the Chinook salmon run, due to concerns about the viability of the population. These complete gillnet closures will ensure no incidental salmon harvest occurs in lethal gillnets between the first quarter point and third quarter point of the Chinook salmon run. These closures will be implemented upriver based on migration timing.

CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH:

The Yukon River salmon outlooks and management strategies were discussed at a Federal public hearing; the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council meetings; the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association preseason meeting; at the Yukon River Panel and at the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission annual 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 April 7. Approximately 3,500 copies of the Preseason Outlook flier were mailed to Yukon River fishing households in May.

This action was taken in coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and USFWS fishery managers. The fishing schedules announced here match those issued concurrently by the ADF&G in State waters (**Summer Fishery Advisory Announcement #13**). 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 Executive Director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal 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 the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; holly_carroll@fws.gov, (907) 351-3029 or Assistant Manager, Keith Herron; keith_herron@fws.gov, (907) 334-5391.

For information concerning State management actions contact: Summer Season Manager, Deena Jallen; deena.jallen@alaska.gov, Fall Season Manager, Matthew Olson; matthew.olson@alaska.gov, or call the Fairbanks office at (907) 459-7274 or Emmonak office at (907) 949-1320.

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? To receive emails updates on Federal Subsistence Management Program activities, send a request to subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

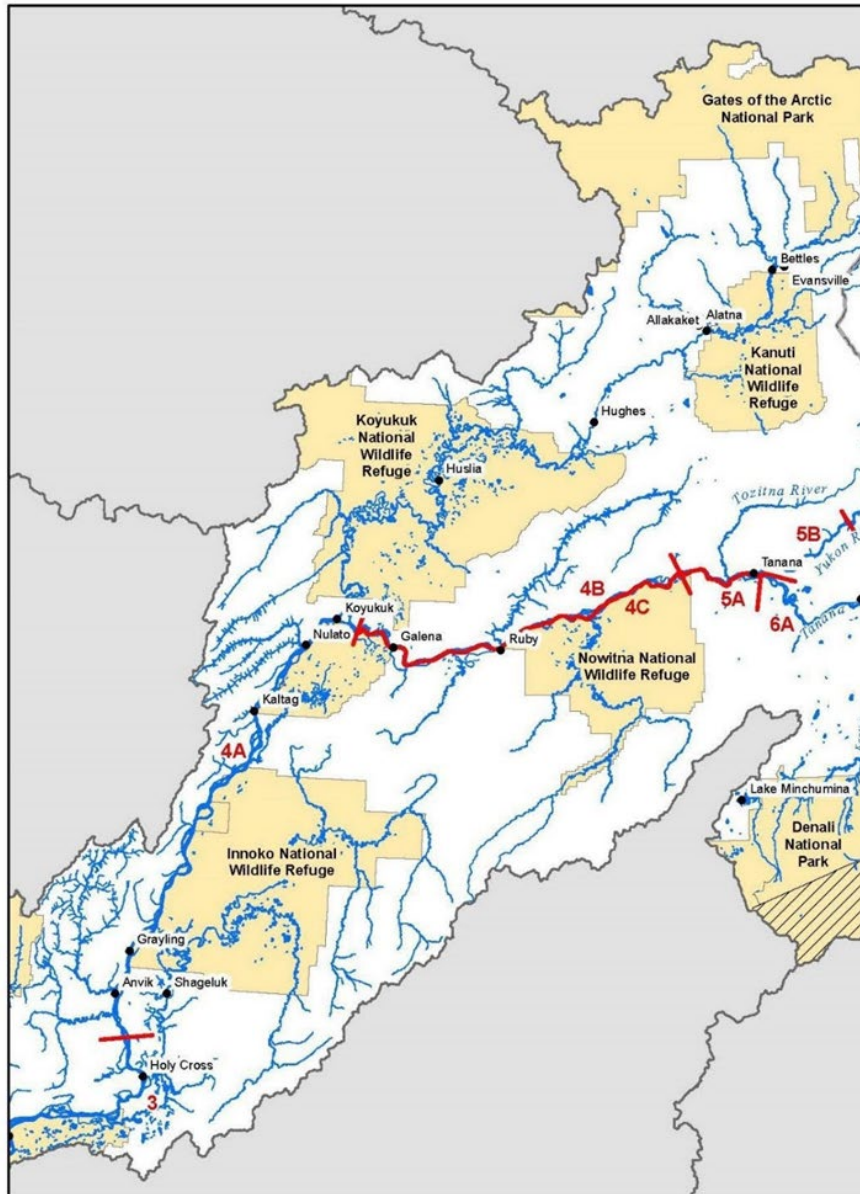


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See below for a detailed area map of federal public waters in the Yukon River Drainage:
Communities and streams adjacent to the boundary of Federal lands are part of Federal waters, even on the opposite side of the river.



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.

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Also distributed to Tribal and City governments and any interested parties. If you did not receive this directly and want to, please contact Keith Herron.