



Federal Subsistence Board

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



Yukon Area Fall Salmon Closure and Non-Salmon Schedule in District 4 and Koyukuk River Drainage

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 03-FC-04-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, July 20, 2026

Effective Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 12:01 a.m. fall salmon closure and 4-inch set gillnet schedule for Subdistrict 4-A Lower

Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 12:01 a.m. 6-inch set gillnets for list of non-salmon harvest areas in District 4 and the Koyukuk River drainage

Sunday, July 26, 2026, 12:01 a.m. fall salmon closure and 4-inch set gillnet schedule for Subdistrict 4-A Upper and Koyukuk River drainage

Wednesday, July 29, 2026, 12:01 a.m. fall salmon closure and 4-inch set gillnet schedule for Subdistrict 4-BC

Expiration Date: Thursday, December 31, 2026, 8:00 a.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action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 of Yukon fishing District 4 and the Koyukuk River drainage.

In the mainstem and all areas where salmon are migrating, gillnets are restricted to 4-inch or smaller mesh, limited to 60 feet in length, and must be operated as a set net. These non-salmon gillnets are being placed on a schedule and allowed from noon Thursdays to noon Sundays to reduce incidental harvest of fall chum, Chinook, and coho salmon.

Selective gear such as manned fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for pink salmon, sockeye salmon, and non-salmon species 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Fish-friendly fish wheel construction is required. Please practice respectful and safe fish handling techniques and ensure any Chinook salmon, chum salmon, or coho salmon caught in selective gear types are released alive so they may continue upriver to their spawning grounds. If you are catching species closed to fishing in a 4-inch gillnet, please move it to avoid catching these species closed for harvest.

In order to provide more efficient harvest opportunity for non-salmon in areas without migrating salmon, this special action also allows the use of 6-inch (or smaller) mesh set gillnets to target non-salmon in limited areas identified in the map on pages 5 and 6. Fishermen should not be catching any salmon in these limited areas. These 6-inch opportunities for non-salmon harvest are not allowed in the mainstem rivers or streams, or any main channels where salmon are present.

REGULATION:

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

Pursuant to the special actions in effect, [03-KS-03-26](#), [03-KS-04-26](#) and [03-KS-15-26](#), Chinook salmon fishing remains closed to all users. Subsistence summer chum salmon fishing with selective gear closes at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 21 in Subdistrict 4-A Lower; 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25 in Subdistrict 4-A Upper and the Koyukuk River drainage; and 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 28 for Subdistrict 4-BC. Gillnets of 4-inch and smaller may be used to target non-salmon species 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

§ __.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:

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 22, subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon closes for all users. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 22, non-salmon subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is only allowed on a weekly schedule from noon Thursdays until noon Sundays.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, and the Koyukuk River drainage:

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, July 26, subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon closes for all users. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, July 26, non-salmon subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is only allowed on a weekly schedule from noon Thursdays until noon Sundays.

Subdistrict 4-BC:

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29, subsistence fishing for chum and coho salmon closes for all users. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29, non-salmon subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is only allowed on a weekly schedule from noon Thursdays until noon Sundays.

District 4 and the Koyukuk River drainage:

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 22, non-salmon subsistence fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, limited to 60 feet in length, operated as a set net near shore is allowed, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week in all lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them, plus the rivers and sloughs listed below and named on the map.



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The following drainages are open with 6-inch set gillnets for whitefish and other non-salmon from **500-feet upstream of a closed area**. Coordinates mark the downstream end of the open area:

<i>Whitefish/Non-salmon Area</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Bear Creek (near Galena)	64° 49.231' N	157° 06.702' W
Bering Creek upstream of the Bering Slough confluence	64° 57.888' N	154° 07.776' W
Big Creek (near Ruby)	64° 47.709' N	155° 18.990' W
Bishop Creek upstream of the Pilot Mountain Slough confluence	64° 44.588' N	157° 18.482' W
Deer Creek upstream of the Ninemile Slough confluence	64° 49.443' N	155° 11.397' W
Dulbi Slough	65° 26.685' N	156° 18.577' W
Gohn Creek	64° 38.924' N	156° 25.519' W
Hodegaden Creek	64° 58.184' N	157° 34.094' W
JR Slough	65° 01.747' N	157° 20.231' W
Junekaket Creek	64° 53.731' N	154° 48.151' W
Klatsuta River	65° 02.958' N	153° 49.181' W
Main Creek (tributary to Ruby Slough)	64° 42.667' N	155° 52.710' W
Natlaratlen River	65° 02.324' N	157° 10.588' W
Nayuka River	65° 38.327' N	155° 57.396' W
Nikolai Slough	65° 00.615' N	157° 22.240' W
Papa Willie Creek upstream of the Yokontoh Slough confluence	63° 22.929' N	159° 22.715' W
Saint Joe Creek	63° 13.967' N	159° 41.692' W
Soonkakak River	64° 42.655' N	158° 02.441' W
Squirrel Creek	64° 45.891' N	157° 55.080' W
Twin Slough	64° 53.620' N	154° 48.295' W
Whakatna Creek	64° 52.404' N	156° 58.601' W
Yankee Slough	63° 14.806' N	159° 40.914' W

Fishing for non-salmon species with selective gears, including manned fish wheels, hook and line with a rod or pole, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, and beach seine, is open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Pink salmon, sockeye salmon, and non-salmon species may be retained. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types. If closed salmon species are caught while fishing for non-salmon with gillnets, they should be released alive when possible but may be legally retained if dead. Gillnets cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway.

While a fish wheel is operating, it must be manned at all times. Fish wheel basket sides and bottoms must be made of soft mesh material such as seine twine. Fish wheels must also have an adjustable or fixed slide or chute with a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined sides that return closed salmon species immediately back to the water.

JUSTIFICATION:

The drainage-wide Chinook salmon run is stronger than previous years, however in-season projections indicate escapement goals are unlikely to be met. Chinook salmon closures will be required for the duration of their migration. The preseason forecasts for fall chum and coho salmon

indicate escapement goals are unlikely to be met. Therefore, retention of chum and coho salmon in Federal public waters of the Yukon River District 4 and the Koyukuk River drainage is closed by this Temporary Special Action (03-FC-04-26).

To further protect fall salmon populations, subsistence non-salmon fishing with 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets is now placed on a schedule to reduce incidental harvest of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon. Since there is no conservation concern for non-salmon species, fishing is not limited to federally qualified subsistence users in Federal public waters.

Specific harvest areas for targeting whitefish and other non-salmon species with 6-inch set gillnets have been carefully selected based on databases and Indigenous and local knowledge to avoid salmon spawning or migration zones. Closure buffers, 500 feet upstream from closed stream mouths, have been established to protect migrating salmon.

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). The fishing schedules announced here match those issued concurrently by the ADF&G in State waters (**Fall Fishery Advisory Announcement #4**). 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.

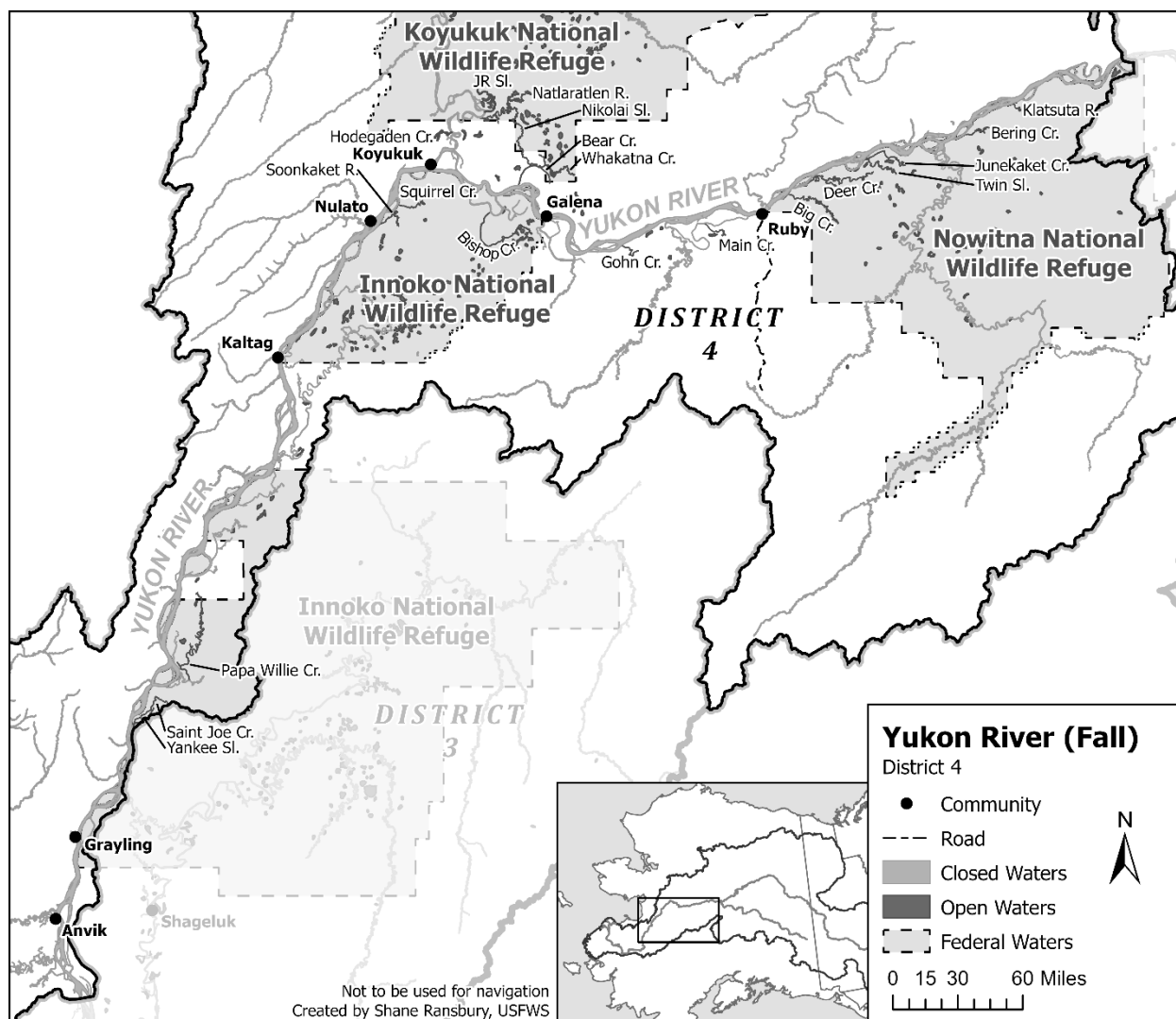
Information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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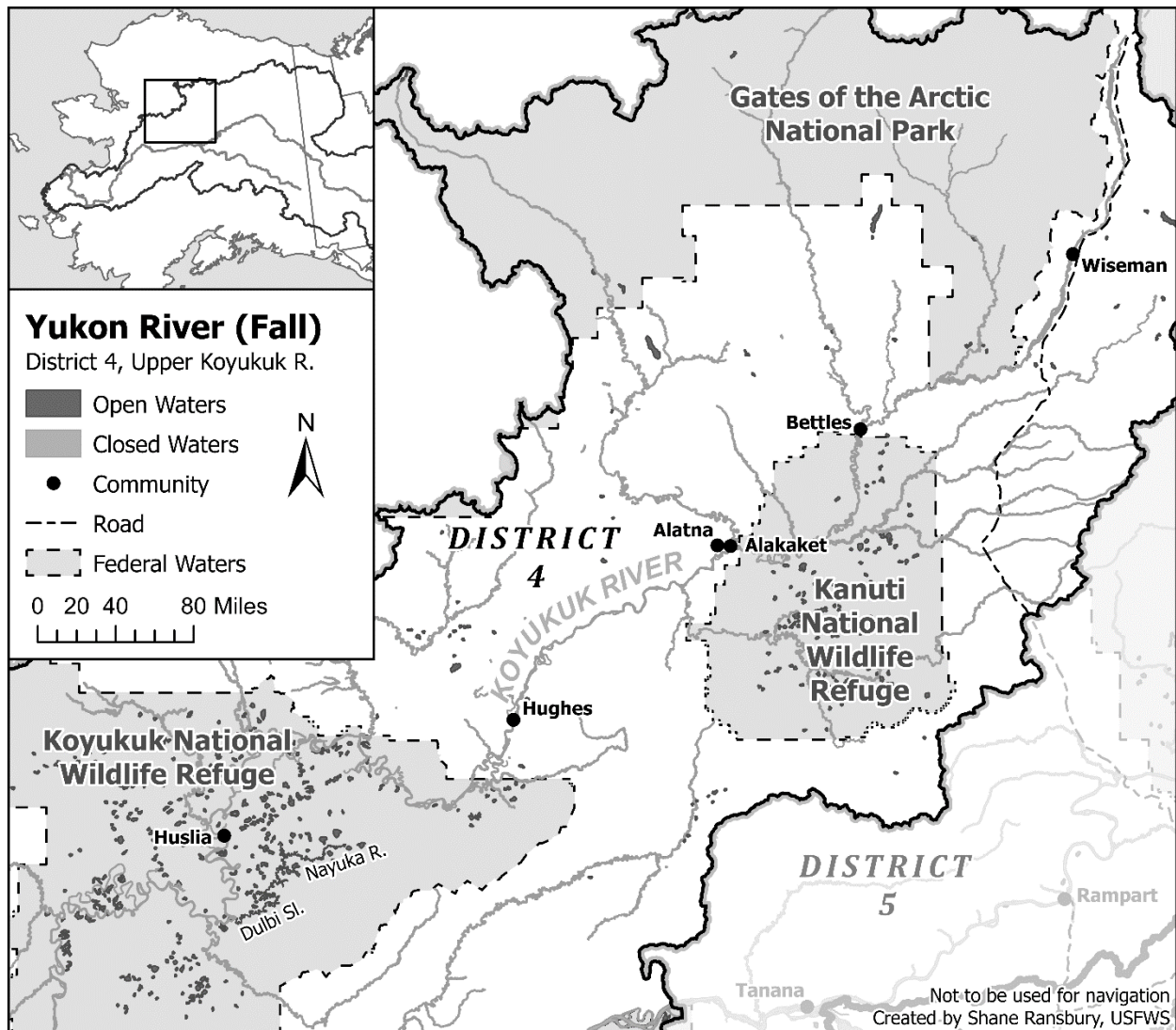


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Map showing open and closed areas for Fall whitefish harvest with 6-inch set gillnets for District 4. All labeled non-mainstem waterways and all lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them are open to 6-inch set gillnets for non-salmon (dark gray). **The Yukon River mainstem remains closed to 6-inch gillnets.** Rivers and sloughs that are open to 6-inch non-salmon fishing have a closure buffer from the mouth to 500 feet upstream of closed areas. Areas that remain closed to 6-inch set gillnets are shown in light gray.



Map showing open and closed areas for Fall whitefish harvest with 6-inch set gillnets for the Upper Koyukuk River drainage. All labeled non-mainstem waterways and all lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them are open to 6-inch set gillnets for non-salmon (dark gray). **The Koyukuk River mainstem remains closed to 6-inch gillnets.** Rivers and sloughs that are open to 6-inch non-salmon fishing have a closure buffer from the mouth to 500 feet upstream of closed areas. Areas that remain closed to 6-inch set gillnets are shown in light gray.



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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.