



Federal Subsistence Board

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



Yukon Area Subsistence Fishing Open in the Koyukuk and Innoko River Drainages

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 03-FC-07-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, August 14, 2026

Effective Date: Monday, August 17, 2026, 8:00 a.m. for Koyukuk and Innoko River drainages

Expiration Date: Thursday, December 31, 2026, 8:00 a.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Temporary Special Action opens subsistence harvest of salmon for federally qualified subsistence users of the Yukon River drainage in federal public waters of the Koyukuk and Innoko River drainages. Subsistence fishing for salmon is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh, and all other legal subsistence gear is allowed.

REGULATION:

Pursuant to the special actions in effect, [03-FC-03-26](#), [03-FC-04-26](#), Chinook, chum and coho salmon fishing is currently closed to all users in the Koyukuk and Innoko River drainages. Non-salmon subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is only allowed on a weekly schedule from noon Thursdays until noon Sundays and 6-inch gillnets are only allowed in designated non-salmon harvest areas. All gillnets are limited to 60 feet in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

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:*

Koyukuk River drainage upstream of a line from 64° 53.273' N, 157° 40.760' W, to 64° 53.020' N, 157° 39.887' W (Figure 1), Innoko River drainage upstream of a line from 62° 11.241' N, 159° 39.397' W, to 62° 11.121' N, 159° 39.227' W (Figure 2), and Paimiut Slough upstream of a line from 61° 55.989' N, 160° 08.985' W, to 61° 55.986' N, 160° 08.717' W (Figure 3)

Effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17, subsistence fishing for salmon and non-salmon is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal subsistence fishing gear. Salmon harvest is limited in federal public waters to federally qualified subsistence users of the Yukon River drainage.

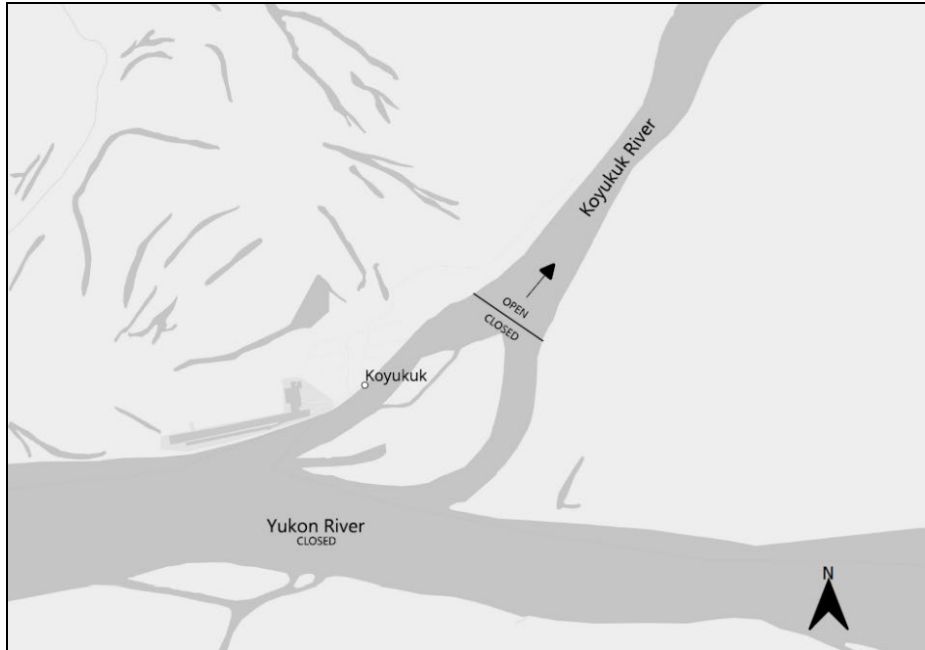


Figure 1.—Subsistence fishing is open in the Koyukuk River drainage upstream of the line depicted above from 64° 53.273' N, 157° 40.760' W, to 64° 53.020' N, 157° 39.887' W. **The Yukon River mainstem remains closed to 6-inch mesh gillnets.**

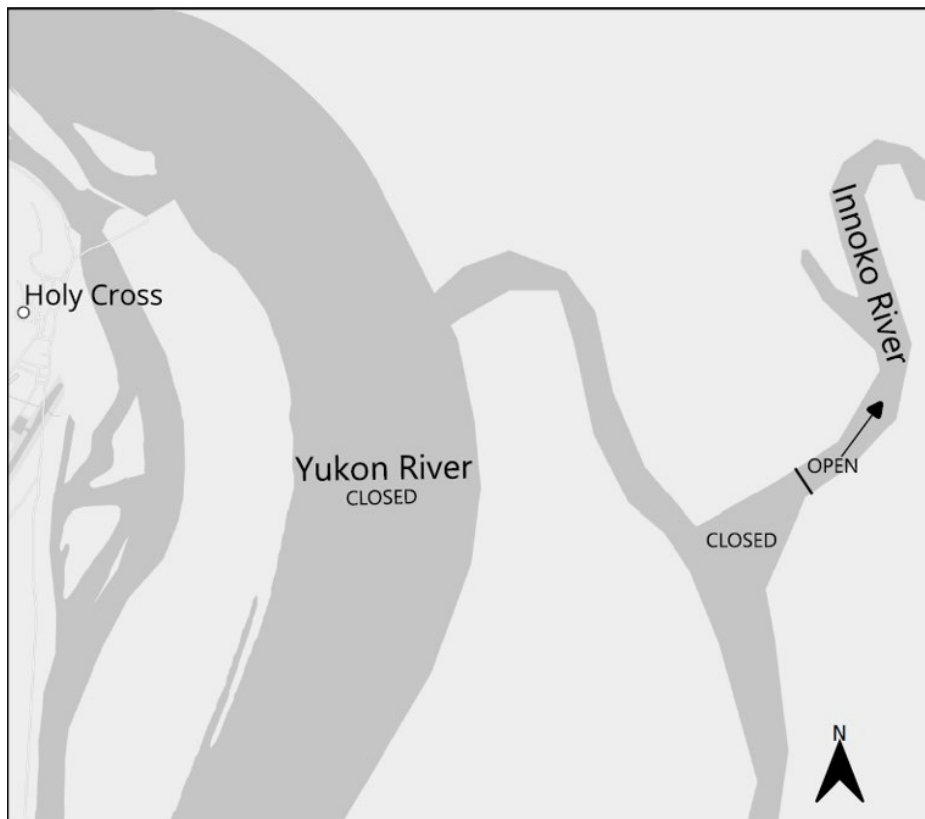


Figure 2.—Subsistence fishing is open in the Innoko River drainage upstream of the line depicted above from 62° 11.241' N, 159° 39.397' W, to 62° 11.121' N, 159° 39.227' W. **The Yukon River mainstem remains closed to 6-inch mesh gillnets.**



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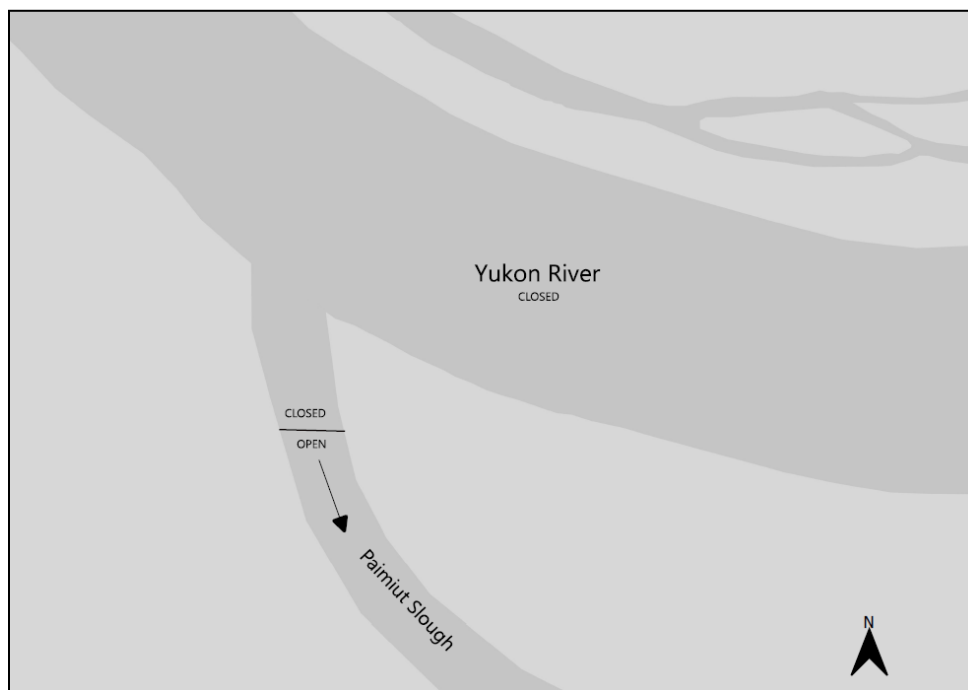


Figure 3.—Subsistence fishing is open in Paimiut Slough upstream of the line depicted above from 61° 55.989' N, 160° 08.985' W, to 61° 55.986' N, 160° 08.717' W. **The Yukon River mainstem remains closed to 6-inch mesh gillnets.**

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on migration timing, the Chinook salmon run is now 99% complete in these tributaries so there is unlikely to be harvest of Chinook salmon in these drainages. Historical genetic analysis confirms that the chum salmon present in the Koyukuk and Innoko River drainages are summer chum salmon. Some chum salmon may still be passing into these drainages at the time of this announcement. The summer chum run throughout the Yukon River drainage met or exceeded the drainage-wide escapement goal (of 500,000–1.2 million fish), so while we do not have escapement assessment in the Koyukuk and Innoko drainages, the strength of the summer chum run indicates it can support subsistence harvest in these drainages. Typically, there are not significant numbers of fall chum salmon in the Koyukuk and Innoko River drainages therefore, there are no conservation concerns requiring subsistence restrictions for chum salmon. We do not have conservation concerns for the limited harvest that may occur for coho salmon in these drainages. Because subsistence fishing opportunities have been severely restricted throughout the drainages, it is necessary to limit salmon fishing in Federal public waters to federally qualified subsistence users to provide for the continuation of subsistence uses. Existing management plan regulations restrict salmon gillnets to 6-inch or smaller mesh for the entire fall season.

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 #11**). 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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