



Federal Subsistence Board

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



Yukon Area Selective Gear Chum Salmon Subsistence Fishing in Tributaries of District 3, District 4, and Subdistrict 5-ABC

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 03-FC-09-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, August 26, 2026

Effective Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 1:00 p.m. for District 3, District 4, and Subdistrict 5-ABC (excluding the 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Expiration Date: Thursday, December 31, 2026, 8:00 a.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action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 and retention of chum salmon with selective gear only in tributaries within Federal public waters from District 3 through Subdistrict 5-ABC of the Yukon River drainage. Subsistence chum salmon harvest is allowed in all tributaries at least 500 feet upstream from the Yukon River mainstem. Legal gears to harvest chum salmon include dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels. Fish-friendly fish wheel construction is required.

Because of the poor coho salmon run and the poor Canadian components of the fall chum salmon run, subsistence fishing for salmon remains closed in the Yukon River mainstem and tributaries within 500 feet of their confluence with the Yukon River mainstem, excluding the Innoko and Koyukuk River drainages. Coho and Chinook salmon must be released alive from selective gears.

REGULATION:

Pursuant to the special actions in effect, [03-FC-03-26](#), [03-FC-04-26](#), [03-FC-05-26](#), Chinook, chum and coho salmon fishing is currently closed to all users in most areas of the Yukon River drainage. The following regulation lifts the chum salmon harvest closure in tributaries of the Yukon River District 3 through Subdistrict 5-ABC; however, the mainstem closures and previously announced restrictions stay in effect within the Yukon River mainstem to protect those stocks that are doing poorly.

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

§ 242.27(e)(3)(ii) In Federal public waters of the following Yukon River Drainage areas of District 3, District 4, and Subdistrict 5-ABC:

In tributaries of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Innoko and Koyukuk River drainages) 500 feet upstream from the Yukon River mainstem:

Effective 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, subsistence fishing for chum salmon is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear). Chum salmon harvest is limited in Federal

public waters to federally qualified subsistence users of the Yukon River drainage. Chinook and coho salmon must be released alive from selective gears.

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.

As a reminder in the Yukon River mainstem:

To protect migrating coho salmon and Canadian-origin fall chum salmon, salmon harvest remains closed in the entire Yukon River mainstem and tributaries within 500 feet of their confluence with the Yukon River mainstem.

Non-salmon subsistence fishing in these areas is allowed, but gillnets are limited to 60 feet in length, 4-inch and smaller mesh, and must be operated as a set net near shore. The use of these small mesh gillnets to target non-salmon species is only allowed on a weekly schedule from noon Thursdays until noon Sundays.

Specific non-salmon harvest areas are open with 6-inch set gillnets for whitefish and other non-salmon from 500-feet upstream of a closed area. See [03-FC-03-26](#), [03-FC-04-26](#), [03-FC-05-26](#) for details.

Pink, sockeye, and non-salmon species can be retained in selective gear types 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Chinook, chum and coho salmon must be released alive from selective gears when fishing in the Yukon River mainstem.

As a reminder within the Innoko and Koyukuk River drainages (pursuant to [03-FC-07-26](#)):

Fishing for salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

JUSTIFICATION:

The summer chum salmon run has met the drainage-wide escapement goal. We have conservation concerns for the poor coho salmon run, therefore harvest of coho remains closed. The fall chum salmon run is projected to exceed the upper end of the drainage-wide escapement goal, which means harvest on US-origin chum salmon stocks is warranted when possible. The Canadian-origin component of the fall chum salmon run may not be large enough to meet the Yukon River mainstem goal (70,000–104,000 fish) nor the Fishing Branch River goal (22,000–49,000). Therefore, Yukon River mainstem closures are still necessary. The Yukon River mainstem closures and selective gear restrictions are conservation measures for both coho salmon and Canadian-origin fall chum salmon and will hopefully allow these stocks to reach their spawning grounds. The coho salmon subsistence harvest that may occur in the Innoko and Koyukuk River drainages is expected to be very small given documented harvest and escapement patterns. It is necessary to limit chum salmon fishing in Federal public waters to federally qualified subsistence users to provide for the continuation of subsistence uses.

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



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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 #14**). 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 email updates on Federal Subsistence Management Program activities, send a request to subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

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Sara Boario, Alaska Regional Director, USFWS

Jackie Cleveland, Chair, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Jack Reakoff, Chair, Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charlie Wright, Chair, Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Louis Green Jr, Chair, Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Phet Souphanya, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, LE Division, USFWS

Crystal Leonetti, Director, Office of Subsistence Management

Scott Ayers, Deputy Director, Office of Subsistence Management

Justin Koller, Supervisory Regulations Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management

Vivian Korthius, Executive Director, Association of Village Council Presidents

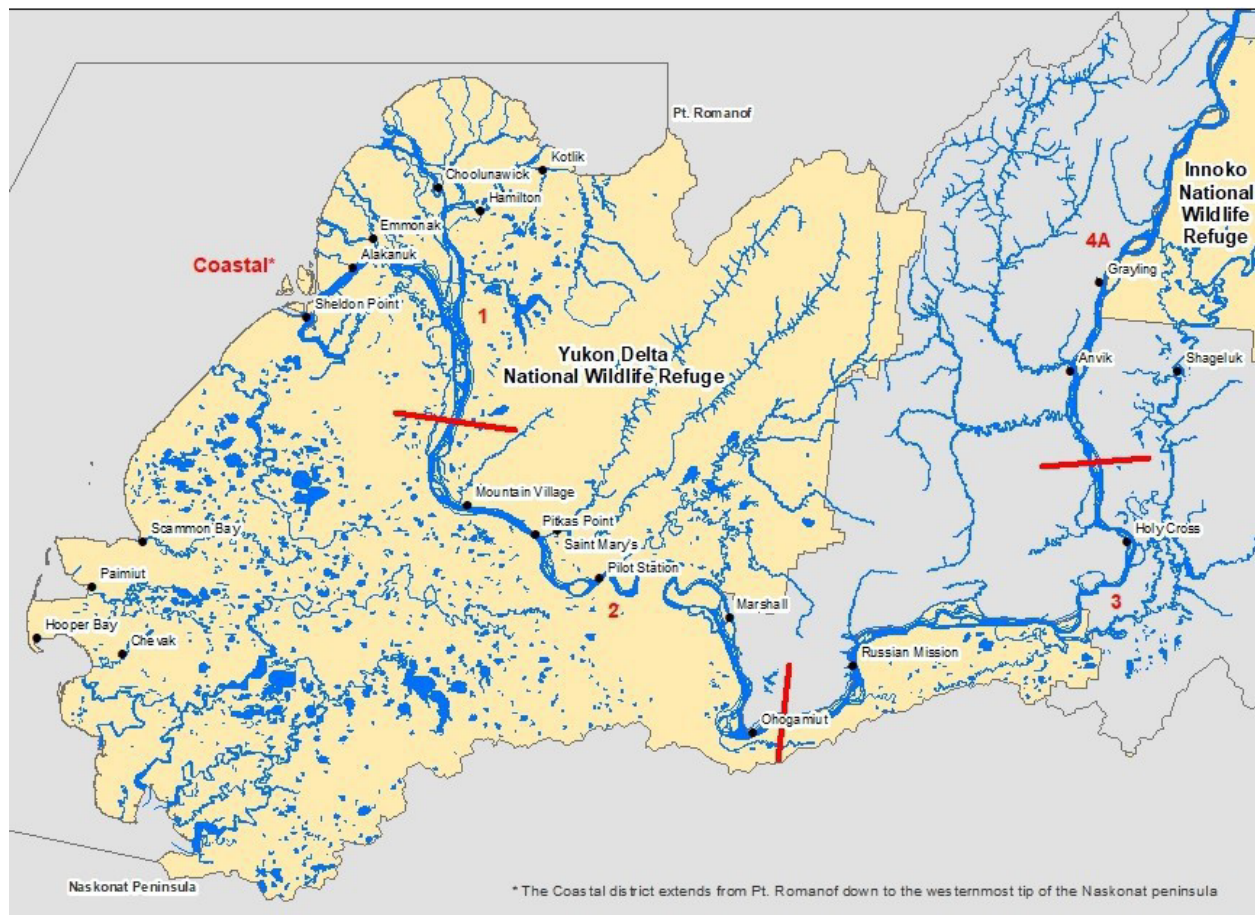
Dorothea Adams, Executive Director, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

Bruce Thomas, Director, Natural Resources Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

Ben Mulligan, Deputy-Commissioner, ADF&G
 Aaron Poetter, Fish and Game Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G
 Jill Klein, Alaska Regional Subsistence Coordinator, USFWS
 Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Supervisor, USFWS
 Dilool Erickson, Tanana Chiefs Conference
 Deena Jallen, Summer Area Management Biologist, ADF&G
 Matthew Olson, Fall Area Management Biologist, ADF&G
 Eva Patton, Regional Subsistence Program Manager, National Park Service
 Kevin Pendergast, State Director, Bureau of Land Management

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.

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 Drainage Area - Lower River Fishing Districts: Coastal, 1, 2, and 3

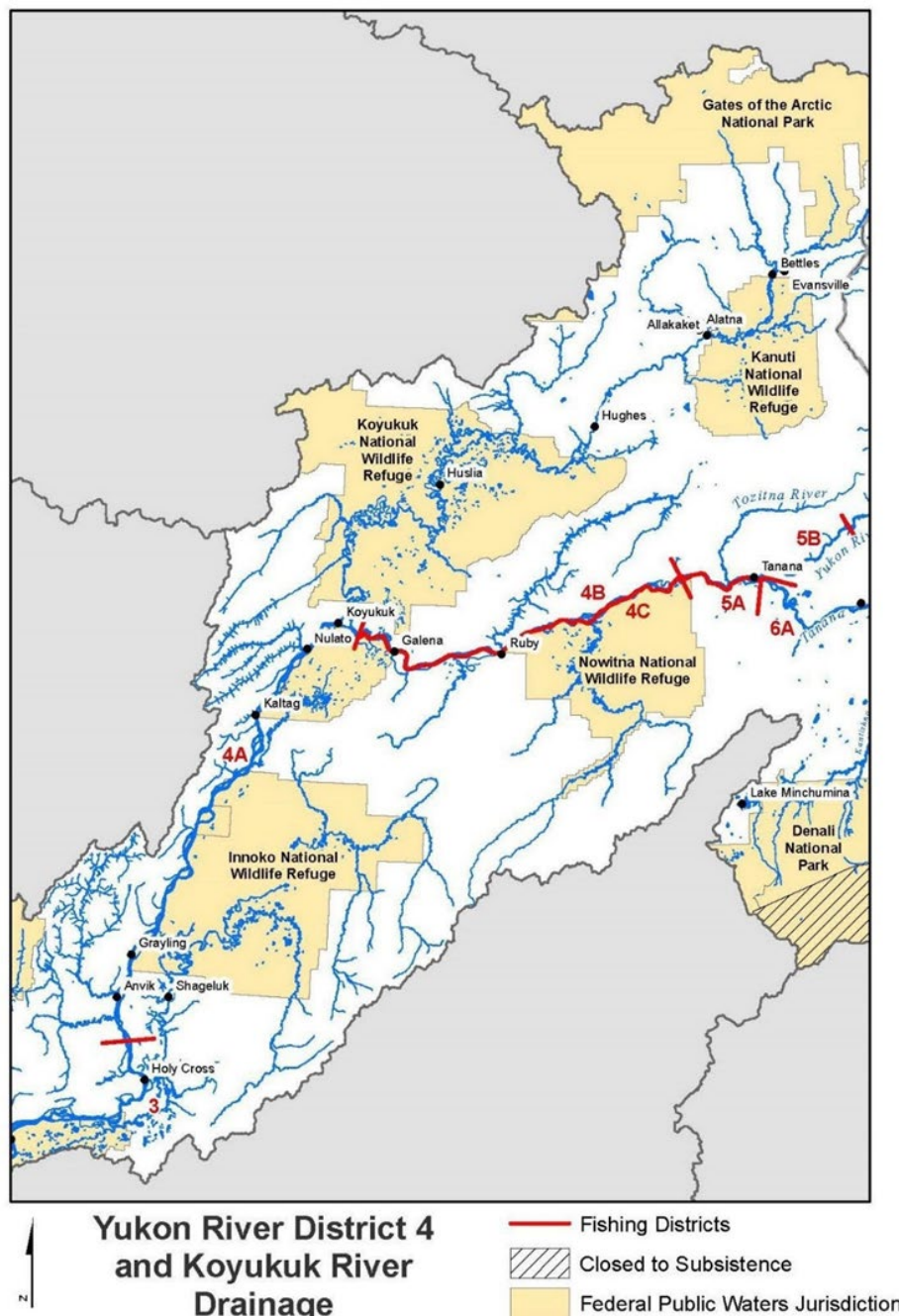
— Fishing Districts
 Federal Public Waters Jurisdiction

In the Coastal area: Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay communities are in Federal waters. However, bays and coastal marine waters are State-managed. In District 2, all communities are in Federal waters. In District 3, only Russian Mission is in Federal waters. Holy Cross and Shageluk (in the Innoko Drainage) are in State waters.

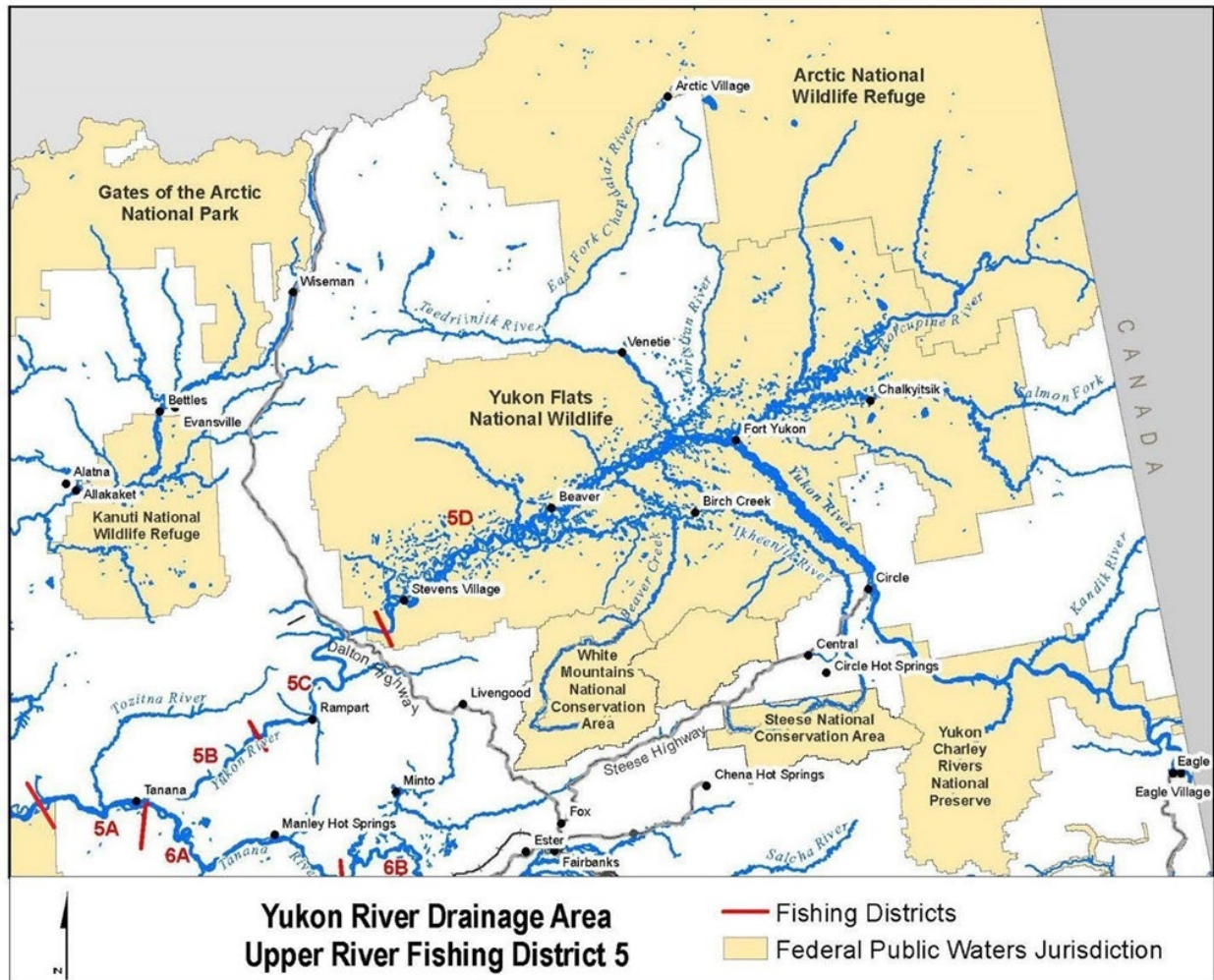


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Within the mainstem Yukon River in District 4, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena and Ruby are in Federal waters and Anvik and the Anvik River are in State waters. Within the Koyukuk River, Huslia falls within Federal waters and Hughes, Alatna,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



In District 5, the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik are in Federal waters. Tanana, Rampart, Circle and Eagle are in State waters.