



Federal Subsistence Board

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



Yukon Area Subsistence Salmon Fishing Open in Tributaries of Subdistrict 5-D

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 03-FC-10-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, August 26, 2026

Effective Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 1:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 5-D excluding the Porcupine River drainage

Expiration Date: Thursday, December 31, 2026, 8:00 a.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action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 in tributaries within Federal public waters of Yukon River fishing Subdistrict 5-D in areas where Canadian-origin stocks of fall chum salmon are not likely to be found.

Subsistence harvest is allowed in all Subdistrict 5-D tributaries (except in the Porcupine River drainage) at least 500 feet upstream from the Yukon River mainstem. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh, and all other legal subsistence gear is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in open tributaries. **Because of the poor coho salmon run and the poor Canadian components of the fall chum salmon run, subsistence salmon fishing remains closed in the Yukon River mainstem, tributaries within 500 feet of their confluence with the Yukon River mainstem, and the Porcupine River drainage.**

REGULATION:

Pursuant to the special action in effect, [03-FC-05-26](#), Chinook, chum and coho salmon fishing is currently closed to all users in Yukon River fishing Subdistrict 5-D. The following regulation lifts the salmon closure in tributaries of Subdistrict 5-D; however, the mainstem closures and previously announced restrictions stay in effect within the Yukon River mainstem and Porcupine River drainage 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:

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

In tributaries of Subdistrict 5-D (excluding the Porcupine River drainage) 500 feet upstream from the Yukon River mainstem:

Effective 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, subsistence fishing for 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. In Birch Creek, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 4 inches. Salmon harvest is limited in Federal public waters to federally qualified subsistence users of the Yukon River drainage.

As a reminder in the Yukon River mainstem and Porcupine River drainage:

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

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.

Within the Porcupine River drainage fishing in the Grass and Sucker rivers and all lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them are open with 6-inch set gillnets for whitefish and other non-salmon from 500-feet upstream of a closed area. See [03-FC-05-26](#) for details.

Non-salmon species can be retained in selective gear types 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Chinook and coho salmon must be released alive from selective gears when fishing in the mainstem or other closed waters.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Chinook salmon run is 99% complete throughout the drainage, so there is unlikely to be harvest of Chinook salmon. The summer chum salmon run has met the drainage-wide escapement goal, and the fall chum salmon run is projected to exceed the upper end of the drainage-wide escapement goal, which means harvest on U.S.-origin fall chum 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 and Porcupine River drainage closures are still necessary. We have conservation concerns for the poor coho salmon run. The Yukon River mainstem closures are conservation measures for both coho salmon and Canadian-origin fall chum salmon. The coho salmon subsistence harvest that may occur in the tributaries of subdistrict 5-D is expected to be very small given documented harvest and escapement patterns. It is necessary to limit 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 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 #15**). 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



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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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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

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Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Supervisor, USFWS

Diloola Erickson, Tanana Chiefs Conference

Deena Jallen, Summer Area Management Biologist, ADF&G

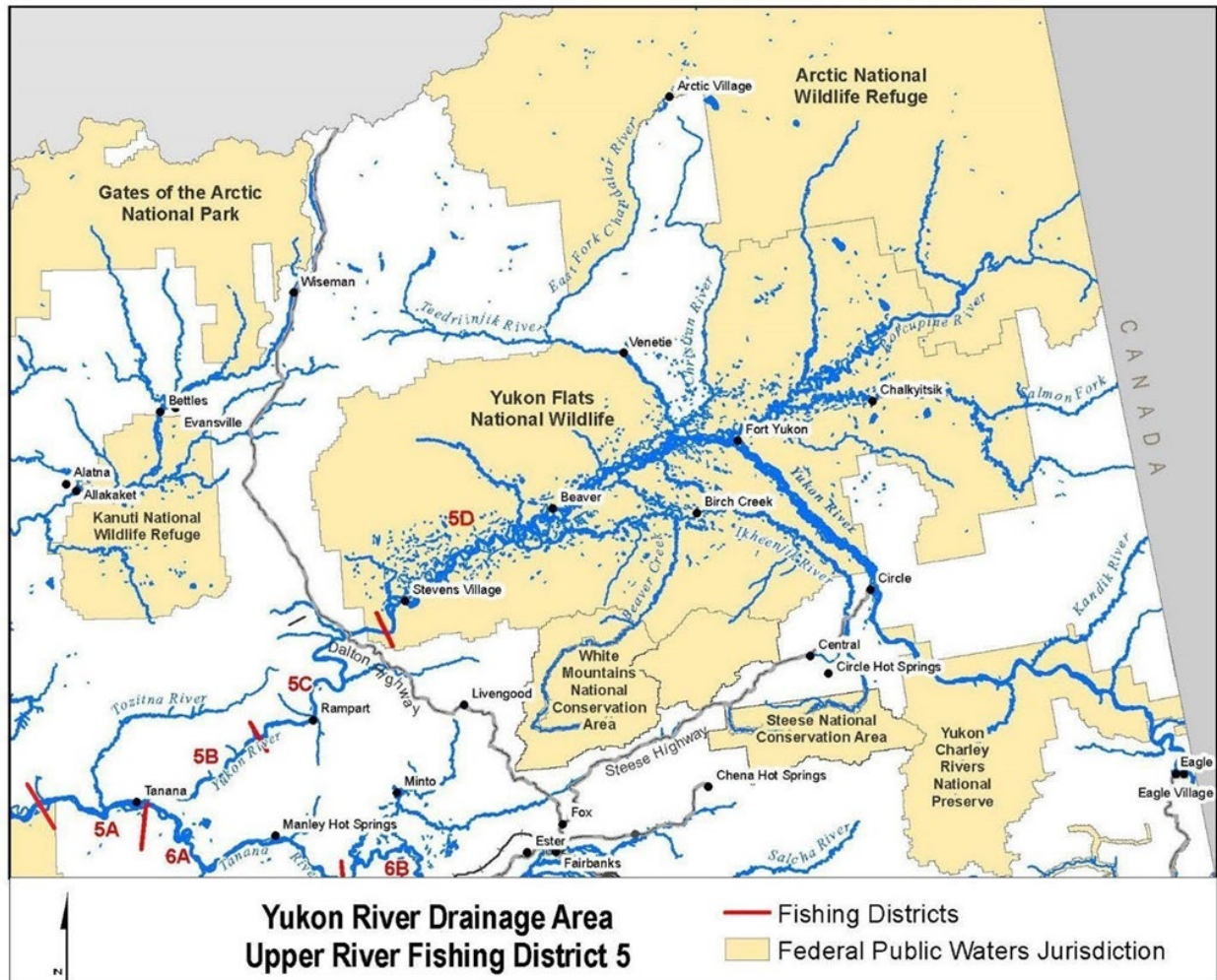
Matthew Olson, Fall Area Management Biologist, ADF&G

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.



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.