



Federal Subsistence Board

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



Yukon Area Selective Gear Chum Salmon Subsistence Fishing in the Tanana River (District 6)

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 03-FC-11-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, August 26, 2026

Effective Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 1:00 p.m. for Tanana River drainage (District 6)

Expiration Date: Thursday, December 31, 2026, 8:00 a.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action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 Federal public waters of the Tanana River drainage. Because of the poor coho salmon run, coho harvest remains closed and coho must be released alive if caught in selective gears.

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. Subsistence fishing for chum salmon with selective gear is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and is limited to federally qualified subsistence users in Federal public waters.

REGULATION:

Pursuant to the special actions in effect, [03-FC-06-26](#), Chinook, chum and coho salmon fishing is currently closed to all users in the Tanana River drainage. The following regulation allows chum salmon harvest; however, previously announced restrictions stay in effect to protect coho salmon.

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 Tanana River drainage areas:*

Subdistrict 6-A (including waters in Denali National Park) and Upper Tanana drainage (including waters in Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve):

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 within the Tanana River drainage:

To reduce the incidental harvest of coho salmon, non-salmon subsistence fishing 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 in Subdistrict 6-A, and allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in the Upper Tanana drainage.

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 in the lower portion of the Tanana River drainage. See [03-FC-06-26](#) 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.

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, and the Delta River escapement goal is likely to be met, which means harvest on U.S.-origin fall chum salmon stocks is warranted when possible. The opportunity to harvest chum salmon is limited to selective gear only for coho salmon conservation. 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 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 #16**). 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



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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.

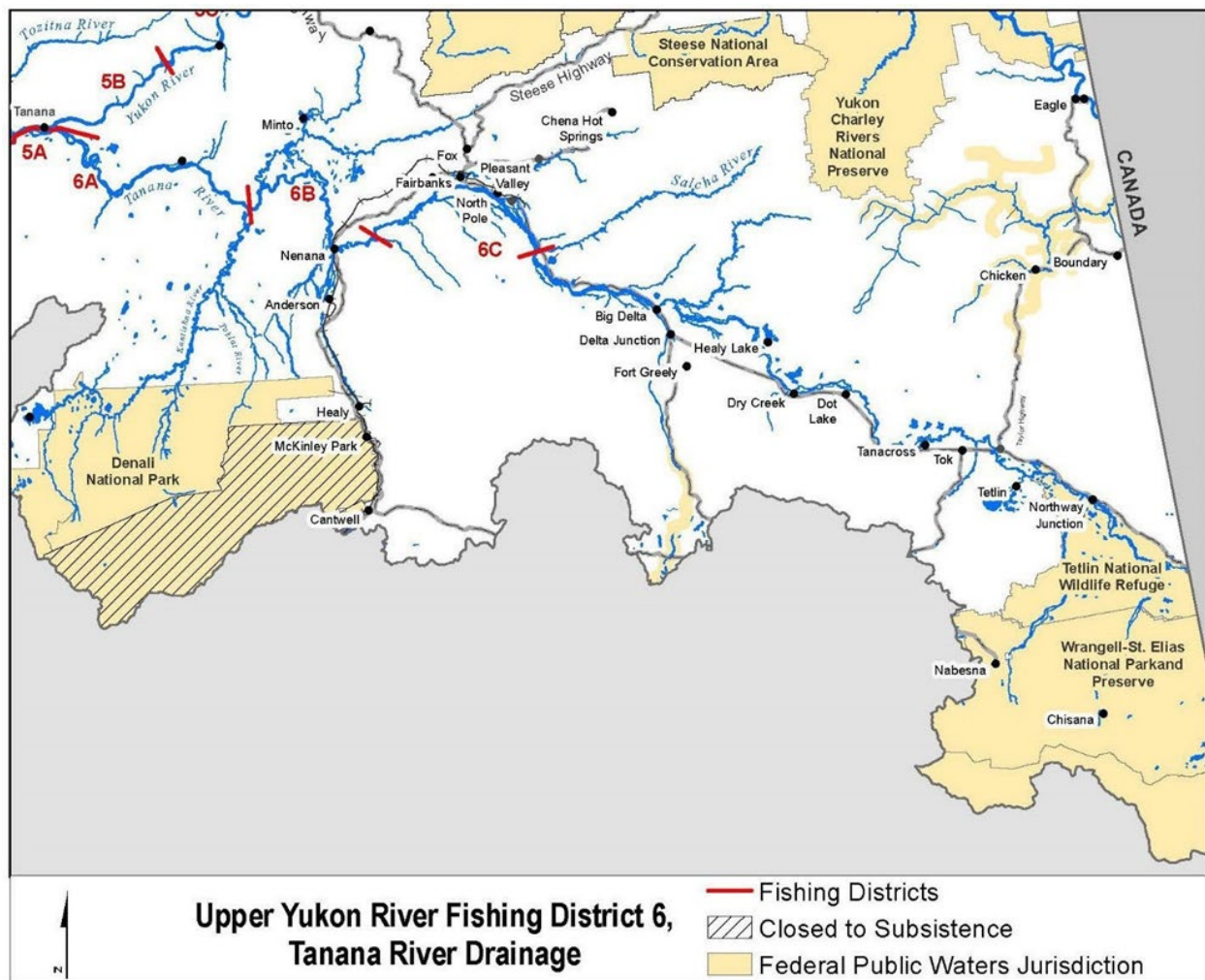
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Jill Klein, Alaska Regional Subsistence Coordinator, USFWS
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Diloolo Erickson, Tanana Chiefs Conference
Deena Jallen, Summer Area Management Biologist, ADF&G
Matthew Olson, Fall Area Management Biologist, 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 6 (Tanana River), Northway, Nabesna and Chisana are in Federal waters. Manley, Minto, Nenana, Fairbanks, North Pole, Delta Junction, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tok, and Tetlin are in State waters.