



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
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Federal Subsistence Board

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Forest Service

Federal Waters Within the Boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

2014 Kuskokwim Area Salmon Fishery News Release #4

Issued at: Bethel, Alaska
June 10, 2014

This is an announcement from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

Federal Special Action

A Special Action was issued today implementing permit-only salmon fishing with gillnets of up to 6" mesh, 50 fathom length, 45 meshes deep, beginning June 11, 2014. This special opening is only for those Kuskokwim communities which have received Social and Cultural Harvest permits from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This special allocation is being coordinated with the tribal councils in each participating village. The councils will identify the community representative responsible for administering the permit locally. The council and community representative can then also identify designated fishers to harvest the community-specific allocation. Those designated fishers must be in possession of a designated fisher permit while fishing. Each council will also determine how their community's allocation is to be distributed fairly among the community's federally qualified subsistence users. Fishing under the Social and Cultural Harvest permits is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from June 11 to June 30, and must be conducted between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

This permit fishery was developed in response to requests and formal proposals as discussed by tribal members, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, and the Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council during the late winter and spring, 2014.

While the Social and Cultural Harvest is going on, all other federally qualified subsistence users fishing in federal waters in the Kuskokwim drainage within Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge will still be able to continue fishing using set gill nets of up to 4" mesh, 60-foot lengths, and 45 meshes deep.

Biological Rationale

The total number of permits issued and the number of Chinook salmon expected to be harvested during this permit fishery is small and calculated to be no more than 1000 Chinook salmon. This harvest should not adversely impact efforts to reach our management objective in the mid-range of the drainage-wide escapement goals.

Affected Area**KUSKOKWIM RIVER AND ALL KUSKOKWIM TRIBUTARIES WITHIN THE REFUGE BOUNDARIES**

For additional information concerning this news release:

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