



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

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Forest Service

YUKON AREA GILLNET CLOSURE IN SUBDISTRICT 4-BC AND KOYUKUK RIVER

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 2-KS-11-25

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, June 23, 2025

Effective Date: Sunday, June 29, 2025, 8:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-BC and the Koyukuk River

Expiration Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 8:00 p.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal public waters of Yukon Subdistrict 4-BC and the Koyukuk River to the use of gillnets of any size for a period when the bulk of the Chinook salmon run is projected to be in these sections of the river. All gillnets must be removed from the water during this gillnet closure period.

This Emergency Special Action adds an *additional gear restriction* to Temporary Special Action **2-KS-04-25** that closed Yukon Subdistrict 4-BC and the Koyukuk River to the subsistence harvest and retention of Chinook and summer chum salmon. When Emergency Special Action **2-KS-11-25** expires, fishing for nonsalmon only may resume with gillnets limited to 4-inch and smaller, 60 feet maximum length, operated as a set net near shore.

REGULATION:

Pursuant to **2-KS-04-25**, in Federal public waters of the following areas, subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed to all users, and gillnets of 4-inch and smaller may be used to target nonsalmon.

50 CFR 100.27(e)(3) Subsistence taking of fish—Yukon-Northern Area is further amended to read:

(ii) **In Federal public waters of the following areas:**

Subdistrict 4-BC and the Koyukuk River:

Effective 8 p.m. Sunday, June 29 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, all gillnets must be removed from the water (all users). Fishing for nonsalmon is still allowed during this period, but it is limited to non-lethal gears including hook and line with a rod or pole, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. Pink and sockeye salmon may be retained. Chinook and chum salmon must be released alive.

JUSTIFICATION:

The drainage-wide Chinook salmon outlook is for a run size of about 72,000 fish, and the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon outlook is about 30,000 fish. Escapement goals are unlikely to be met for Chinook salmon and closures will likely be required for the duration of their migration. Pursuant to Title VIII of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (**2-KS-11-25**) closes all gillnet fishing in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River Subdistrict 4-BC and the Koyukuk River based on recent average run timing for Chinook salmon due to concerns about the viability of the population. These gillnet closures will ensure no incidental harvest of this species in lethal gillnets will occur between the first quarter point and third quarter point of the run to protect the bulk of the migrating Chinook salmon. These closures will be implemented upriver based on fish migration timing.

CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH:

The Yukon River salmon outlooks and management strategies were discussed at a public hearing; the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council meetings; the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFFA) annual Preseason Fisheries Meeting; at the Yukon River Panel and at the Yukon River Intertribal Fish commission 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 May 23. Approximately 3,500 copies of the ADF&G and USFWS Preseason Outlook flier were mailed to Yukon River fishing households in May.

This action was taken following coordination with the ADF&G fishery managers. The fishing schedules and/or restrictions announced here match those issued concurrently by the ADF&G in state waters (Summer 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 vice-chair of the Yukon River Intertribal 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 Yukon River Federal Manager Holly Carroll at (907) 351-3029, or Yukon Federal Assessment Biologist Shane Ransbury at (907) 334-5389.

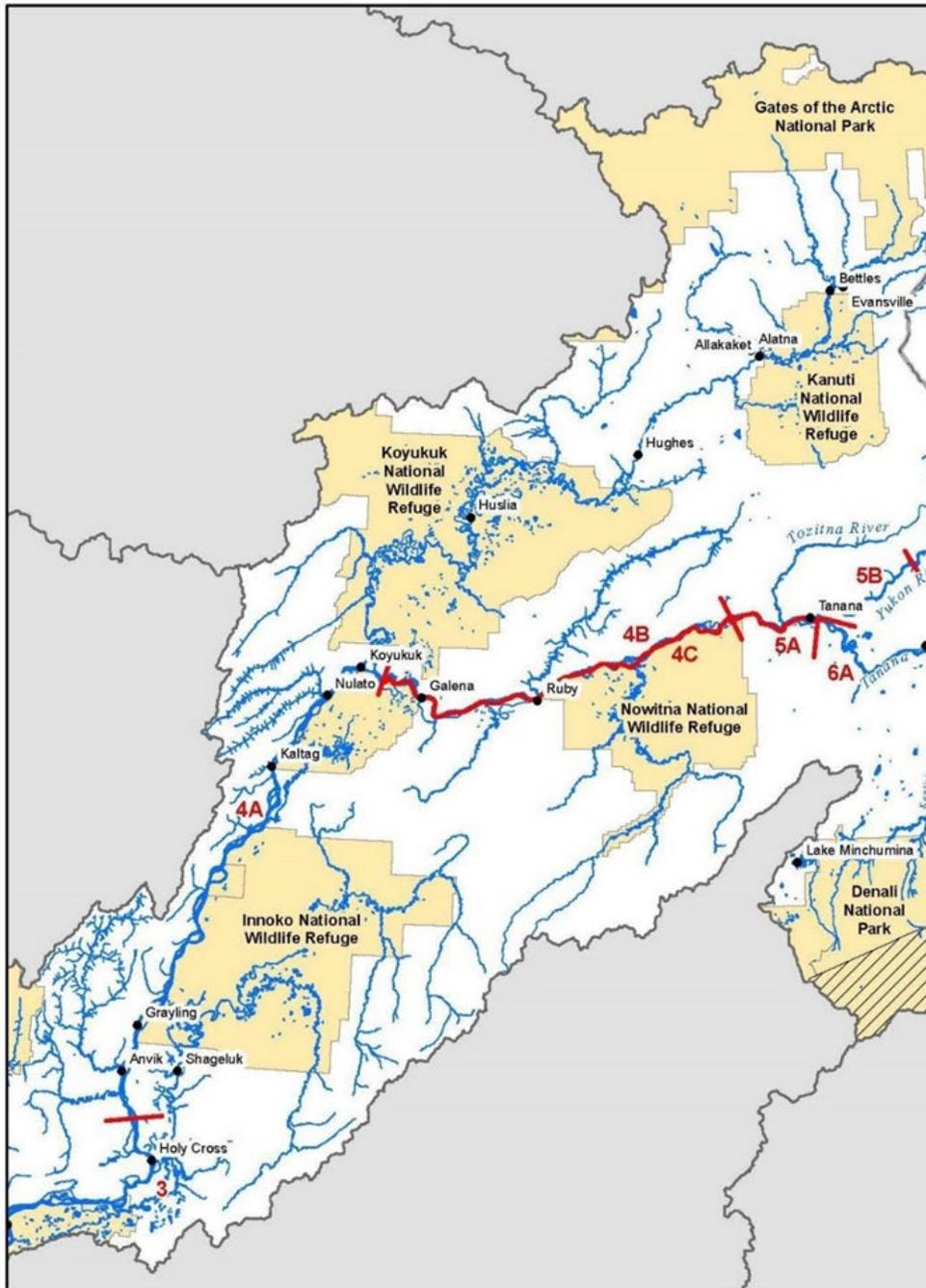
For information concerning State management actions, contact Yukon River Summer Season Manager, Deena Jallen, and Acting Fall Season Manager, Matthew Olson, in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320. For fishing restrictions, schedules and counts for your area please call the toll-free recording: 1-866-479-7387

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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See Below for Detailed Maps 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 District 4
and Koyukuk River
Drainage**

- Fishing Districts
- Closed to Subsistence
- Federal Public Waters Jurisdiction

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.

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Mathew Olson, Fall Area Management Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eva Patton, Regional Subsistence Program Manager, National Park Service
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Also distributed to Tribal and City Governments and any interested parties. If you didn't receive this directly and want to, please reach out to Holly Carroll.