



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

Federal Subsistence Board

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



Forest Service

YUKON AREA SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE IN SUBDISTRICT 4-BC AND KOYUKUK RIVER

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 2-KS-04-25

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, June 9, 2025

Effective Date: Monday, June 16, 2025, 8:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-BC
Friday, June 20, 2025, 8:00 p.m. for The Koyukuk River drainage
Expiration Date: Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 8:00 a.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Temporary Special Action closes the Federal public waters of Yukon Subdistrict 4-BC, to the subsistence harvest and retention of Chinook and summer chum salmon to all users. This closure also prohibits gillnets larger than 4-inch stretched mesh and longer than 60 feet. When using gillnets smaller than 4-inch to fish for nonsalmon, these small mesh gillnets must be operated as setnets only. There is not a conservation concern for nonsalmon species, so fishing opportunities for nonsalmon are not limited to Federally-qualified subsistence users. If salmon are caught while fishing for nonsalmon, they should be released alive but may be legally retained if dead. The use of fish wheels is not allowed during these closures.

REGULATION:

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

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

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

District 4-BC:

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 16, Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Koyukuk River:

Effective 8 p.m. Friday, June 20 Chinook and chum salmon fishing is closed. Gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target

nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon and pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

If you are catching Chinook or summer chum salmon in a 4-inch gillnet, please move it to avoid catching these species. Later in the season, the use of 4-inch gillnets will be closed between the first and third quarter points, in order to reduce any incidental catch of Chinook salmon.

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. The summer chum salmon outlook is for a run size of 1.1 million fish. While the drainage-wide escapement goal of 500,000–1.2 million summer chum salmon could be met, closures are warranted until run projections indicate goals will be met and a surplus is available for subsistence harvest. Pursuant to Section 816 of ANILCA, this Temporary Special Action (**2-KS-04-25**) closes fishing for Chinook and summer chum salmon in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River Subdistrict 4-BC and Koyukuk River due to concerns about the viability of these populations. Large mesh gillnet closures are likely throughout the summer season to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Salmon fishing closures are issued based on the historical timing of Chinook salmon arrival in the area. These closures will be implemented up river 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 (YRDFA) 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 #5). 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.

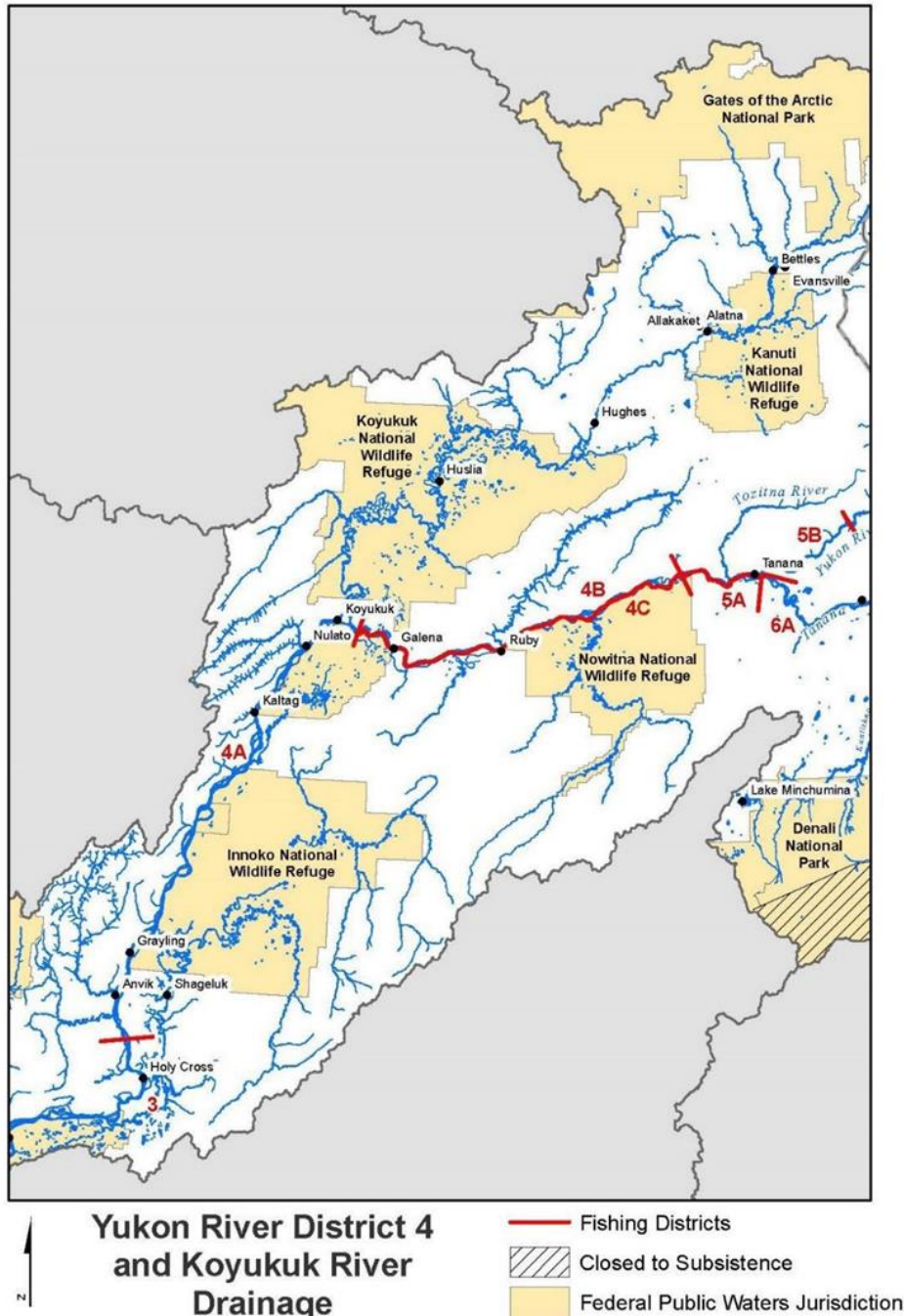
For information concerning State management actions, contact Yukon River Summer Season Manager, Deena Jallen, and Acting Fall Season Manager, Matthew Olson, in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320. For fishing restrictions, schedules and counts for your area please call the toll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



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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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.