



Federal Subsistence Board

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



YUKON AREA SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE IN COASTAL DISTRICT, DISTRICT 1, AND DISTRICT 2

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Temporary Special Action No: 03-KS-01-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, May 26, 2026

Effective Date: Monday, June 1, 2026, 8:00 p.m. for Coastal District and District 1
Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 8:00 p.m. for District 2

Expiration Date: Thursday, December 31, 2026, 8:00 a.m. unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Temporary Special Action closes the Federal public waters between the latitude of Point Romanof and the latitude of the westernmost point of the Naskonat Peninsula including those waters draining into the Bering Sea (the Coastal District), and Federal public waters of the Yukon fishing districts 1 and 2 to fishing for Chinook and summer chum salmon by all users. This closure prohibits all directed fishing for Chinook and summer chum salmon and closes gillnets larger than 4-inch stretched mesh and longer than 60 feet. The use of fish wheels is not allowed during these closures. Selective gear such as, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for pink salmon, sockeye salmon, and nonsalmon species. If Chinook and summer chum salmon are caught while fishing for other species, they should be released alive but may be legally retained if dead.

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

REGULATION:

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 areas:*

Coastal District and District 1 from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof, which includes the Black River and the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik:

Effective 8 p.m. Monday, June 1, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed to all users. Gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

District 2, which includes Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, and Marshall:

Effective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is closed to all users. Gillnets larger than 4-inch mesh and fish wheels are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target other species and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore.

JUSTIFICATION:

The drainage-wide Chinook salmon outlook is for a run size of about 64,000 fish, and the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon outlook is about 27,000 fish. Escapement goals are unlikely to be met for Chinook salmon and closures will be required for the duration of their migration. The summer chum salmon outlook is for a run size of about 345,000 fish and is below the drainage-wide escapement goal of 500,000–1.2 million. Closures are warranted until in-season run projections indicate goals will be met and a surplus is available for subsistence harvest. Pursuant to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, this Temporary Special Action **(03-KS-01-26)** closes fishing for Chinook and summer chum salmon to all users in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River Coastal District, District 1 and District 2 due to concerns about the viability of these populations. Large mesh gillnet closures are expected throughout the entire summer season to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook and summer chum salmon. Salmon fishing closures in the lower river are issued based on the historical timing of Chinook salmon arrival in the area. These closures will be implemented upriver based on salmon migration timing. There are no conservation concerns for pink salmon, sockeye salmon, and nonsalmon species so they may still be targeted and retained when subsistence fishing and fishing for these species is not limited to federally qualified subsistence users.

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) and USFWS fishery managers. The fishing schedules announced here match those issued concurrently by the ADF&G in State waters (Summer Fishery Advisory Announcement #3). 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

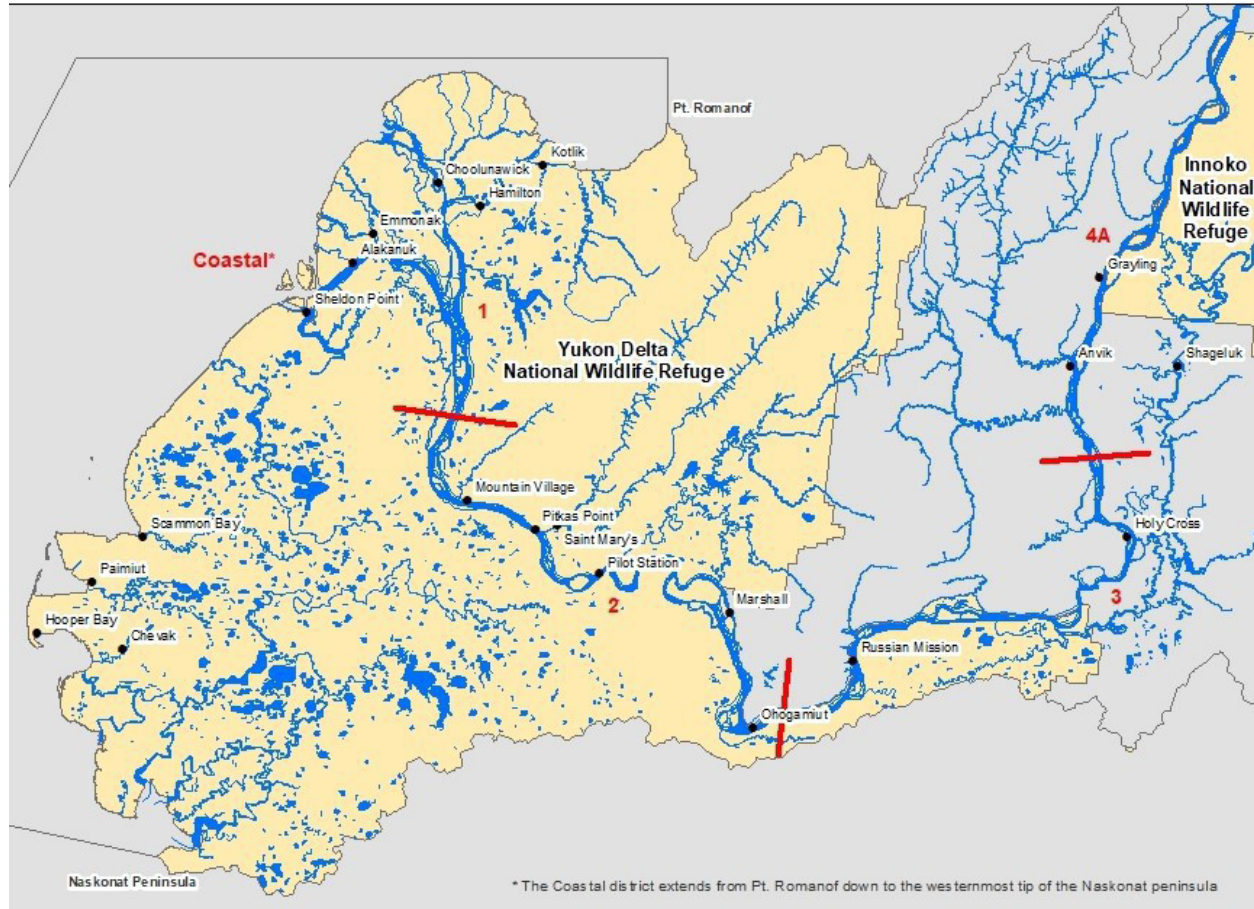


Federal Subsistence Board

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



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.



Yukon River Drainage Area -
Lower River Fishing Districts: Coastal, 1, 2, and 3

— Fishing Districts
Federal Public Waters Jurisdiction

In the Coastal area: Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay communities are in Federal waters. However, bays and coastal marine waters are State-managed. In District 2, all communities are in Federal waters. In District 3, only Russian Mission is in Federal waters. Holy Cross and Shageluk (in the Innoko Drainage) are in State waters.

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? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program send an email to subsistence@ios.doi.gov with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

DISTRIBUTION:

Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
Sara Boario, Alaska Regional Director, USFWS
Jackie Cleveland, Chair, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Jack Reakoff, Chair, Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Charlie Wright, Chair, Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission
Louis Green Jr, Chair, Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Phet Souphanya, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, LE Division, USFWS
Crystal Leonetti, Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Scott Ayers, Deputy Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Justin Koller, Supervisory Regulations Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management
Vivian Korthius, Executive Director, Association of Village Council Presidents
Dorothea Adams, Executive Director, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
Bruce Thomas, Director, Natural Resources Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
Ben Mulligan, Deputy-Commissioner, ADF&G
Aaron Poetter, Fish and Game Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G
Jill Klein, Alaska Regional Subsistence Coordinator, USFWS
Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Supervisor, USFWS
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.