



Federal Subsistence Board

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



Yukon Area Selective Gear Summer Chum Subsistence Fishing Schedule for District 4 and Koyukuk River Drainage

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Emergency Special Action No: 03-KS-15-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, July 1, 2026

Effective Date: Thursday, July 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-A Lower and Upper
Monday, July 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-BC and the Koyukuk River
drainage

Expiration Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 11:59 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-A Lower;
Saturday, July 25, 2026, 11:59 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-A Upper and the Koyukuk
River drainage;
Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 11:59 p.m. for Subdistrict 4-BC, unless superseded by
subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Special Action opens Federal public waters of District 4 and the Koyukuk River drainage to subsistence harvest and retention of summer chum salmon with selective gear only. The action includes dip nets, manned fish wheels, beach seines, and hook and line. Fish-friendly fish wheel construction is required.

In Federal public waters, the summer chum salmon subsistence fishing opportunity is limited to federally qualified subsistence users in the Yukon River drainage.

Chinook salmon fishing remains closed (as announced in [TSA 03-KS-03-26](#) and [TSA 03-KS-04-26](#)). All gillnets were previously closed to protect the migrating Chinook salmon run (as announced in [ESA 03-KS-09-26](#) and [ESA 03-KS-11-26](#)). The gillnet closure is effective until the expiration date for each fishing district listed in the special actions.

The expiration dates for the summer chum salmon subsistence opportunity align with the planned harvest closures of fall chum and coho salmon at the start of the fall management season in each fishing district. This year, the fall management season starts three days earlier in each fishing district to protect early fall chum salmon.

Please practice respectful and safe fish handling techniques and ensure any Chinook salmon caught in selective gear types are released alive so they may continue upriver to their spawning grounds. If it appears that Chinook salmon are targeted while fishing for summer chum, fishing will be further restricted. While we acknowledge that allowing gillnets to harvest chum salmon would be more efficient than selective gear, the Chinook run cannot support incidental harvest of Chinook salmon that would occur in chum-sized gillnets. While 4-inch and smaller mesh gillnets will be allowed again after the bulk of the Chinook salmon run has passed, these gear may only be used to target non-salmon species.

REGULATION:

Pursuant to the special actions in effect, Chinook and summer chum salmon fishing is currently closed to all users.

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:*

Subdistrict 4-A Lower from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes Grayling:

Effective 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2 until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, subsistence fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear) is open for summer chum salmon 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk:

Effective 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25, subsistence fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear) is open for summer chum salmon 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Koyukuk River drainage, which includes Huslia:

Effective 6 p.m. Monday, July 6 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25, subsistence fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear) is open for summer chum salmon 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Subdistrict 4-BC, which includes Galena and Ruby:

Effective 6 p.m. Monday, July 6 until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, subsistence fishing with selective gear types (dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear) is open for summer chum salmon 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

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 Chinook salmon immediately back to the water.

JUSTIFICATION:

The summer chum salmon inseason projection indicates the drainage-wide escapement goal will be met. The inseason projection is well above the lower end of the drainage-wide goal of 500,000 summer chum salmon. The harvest from this limited selective gear opportunity is unlikely to adversely affect the drainage-wide escapement of the species.

Pursuant to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, this Emergency Special Action **(03-KS-15-26)** allows retention of summer chum salmon in selective gear types in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River District 4 and the Koyukuk River drainage. This opportunity is limited to federally qualified subsistence users and will be implemented upriver based on migration timing and summer chum salmon presence in each area.



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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 #22**). 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

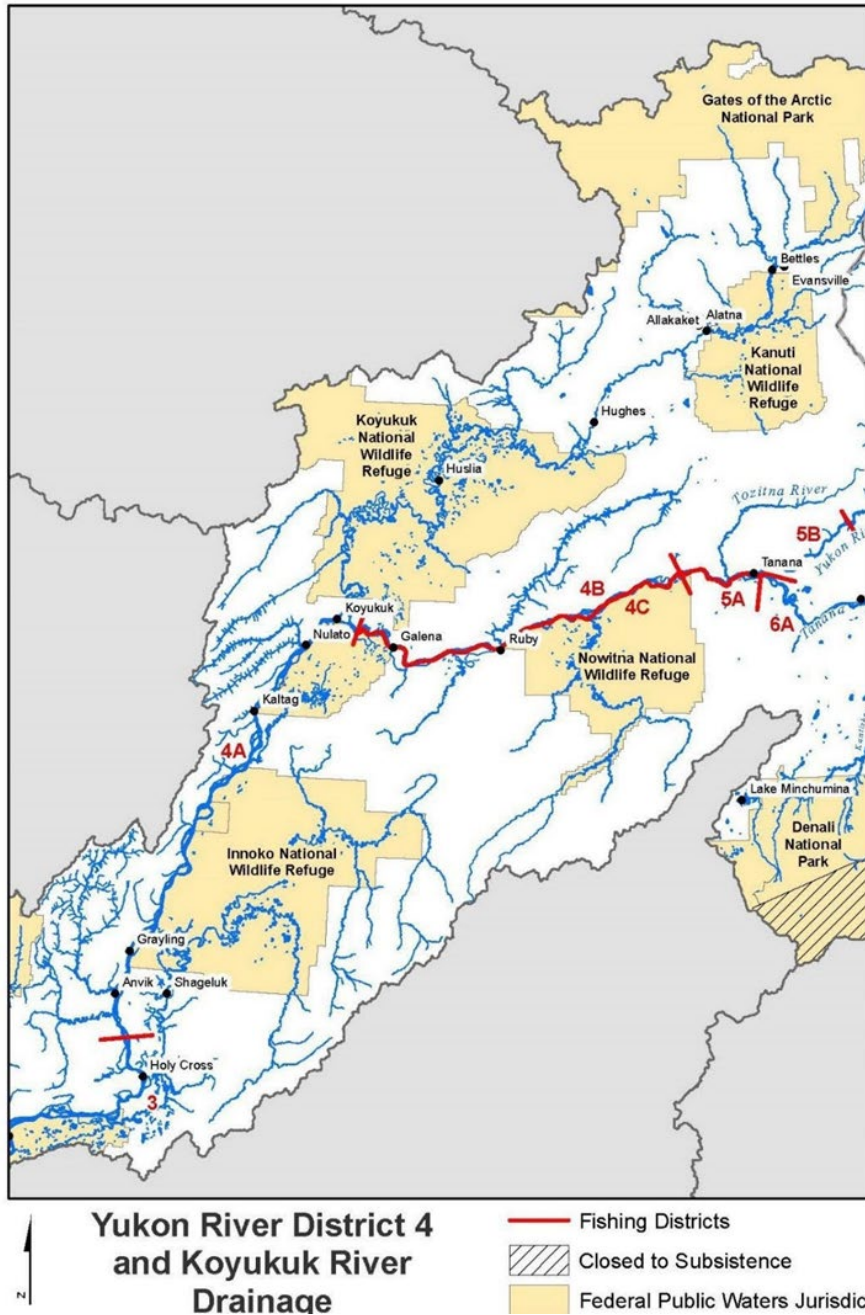
For additional information concerning Yukon River Federal Special Actions contact the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; holly_carroll@fws.gov, (907) 351-3029 or Assistant Manager, Keith Herron; keith_herron@fws.gov, (907) 334-5391.

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.

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.



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 did not receive this directly and want to, please contact Keith Herron.