



## Federal Subsistence Board

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



### Yukon Area End of Fall Season Schedule in Subdistrict 5-D

#### EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

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**Emergency Special Action No: 03-FC-15-26**      Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, September 21, 2026

Current Emergency and Temporary Special Actions will be rescinded on the following dates:

Saturday, September 26, 2026, 8:00 a.m. for Subdistrict 5-D Lower

Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 8:00 a.m. for Subdistrict 5-D Middle

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 8:00 a.m. for tributaries of the Porcupine River drainage

Thursday, December 31, 2026, 8:00 a.m. for the Porcupine River mainstem

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 8:00 a.m. for Subdistrict 5-D Upper

#### **EXPLANATION:**

This Emergency Special Action announces the dates when subsistence fishing restrictions are removed and when subsistence harvest of salmon is allowed in the lower, middle, and upper portions of Yukon River Subdistrict 5-D. This action also allows salmon harvest with 6-inch and smaller mesh gillnets in Porcupine River drainage tributaries 500 feet upstream from the closed Porcupine River mainstem. After restrictions are removed in each subdistrict portion, subsistence fishing for all species of fish is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch and smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear.

#### **REGULATION:**

*Pursuant to the special actions in effect, [03-FC-05-26](#) and [03-FC-10-26](#), Chinook, chum, and coho salmon fishing is currently closed to all users in the mainstem of the Yukon River drainage and in the Porcupine River drainage. Fishing for non-salmon with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is allowed from noon Thursdays to noon Sundays. Several special actions are applied in tributaries to allow harvest of salmon and non-salmon species. Salmon harvest in open areas is limited to federally qualified subsistence users of the Yukon River drainage. **The following regulations remove subsistence salmon fishing harvest closures, gear restrictions and schedules, and allow the use of 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to target all species of fish.***

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 5-D Lower:***

**Effective 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, all federal actions and subsistence fishing restrictions are rescinded. Subsistence fishing opens 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch and smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear. All fish caught can be kept.**

***Subdistrict 5-D Middle:***

**Effective 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 30, all federal actions and subsistence fishing restrictions are rescinded. Subsistence fishing opens 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch and smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear. All fish caught can be kept.**

***In tributaries of the Porcupine River drainage 500 feet upstream from the Porcupine River mainstem:***

**Effective 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22, subsistence fishing opens 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 6-inch and smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear. All fish caught can be kept.**

**Effective 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 30, all federal actions and subsistence fishing restrictions are rescinded. Subsistence fishing opens 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch and smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear. All fish caught can be kept.**

***In the mainstem Porcupine River (refer to [03-FC-05-26](#)):***

**To protect migrating Canadian-origin fall chum salmon, salmon harvest remains closed through December 31 within the Porcupine River mainstem and tributaries within 500 feet of their confluence with the Porcupine River mainstem.**

Non-salmon subsistence fishing in the Porcupine River mainstem is allowed, but gillnets are limited to 60 feet in length, 4-inch and smaller mesh, and must be operated as a set net near shore. The use of these small mesh gillnets to target non-salmon species is only allowed on a weekly schedule from noon Thursdays until noon Sundays.

Non-salmon species can be kept in selective gear types 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. All salmon must be released alive from selective gears when fishing in the Porcupine River mainstem.

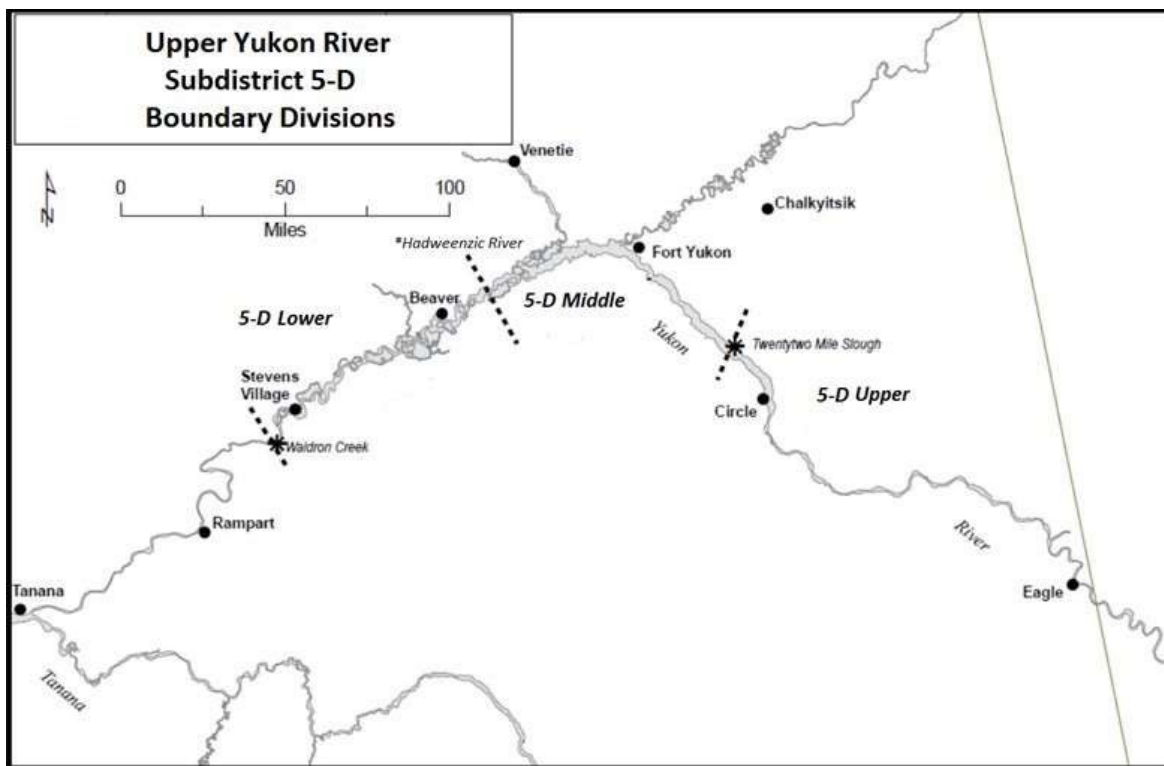
***Subdistrict 5-D Upper:***

**Effective 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, all federal actions and subsistence fishing restrictions are rescinded. Subsistence fishing opens 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch and smaller mesh gillnets and all other legal gear. All fish caught can be kept.**



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### **JUSTIFICATION:**

We are near the end of the fall salmon runs in the Yukon River. The fall chum salmon run is likely to meet all the escapement goals within Alaska. The Canadian-origin fall chum salmon proportion is slightly better than in recent years, and current projections indicate we could meet the border escapement goal of 70,000 to 104,000 fish past Eagle sonar. However, the Fishing Branch River escapement goal of 22,000–49,000 is unlikely to be achieved; therefore, the Porcupine River mainstem remains closed to allow continued passage of late run chum salmon. The early Canadian-origin projections do not include a large enough harvestable surplus for directed fishing on the bulk of Canada-bound stocks. Currently, the fall chum salmon run is nearly complete, and it is no longer necessary to limit salmon fishing in federal public waters to federally qualified subsistence users; therefore, we are relaxing management to the default overwinter regulation.

### **CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH:**

This action was taken in coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The fishing schedules announced here match those issued concurrently by the ADF&G in State waters (**Fall Fishery Advisory Announcement #23**). 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: Fall Season Manager, Matthew Olson; matthew.olson@alaska.gov or call the Fairbanks office at (907) 459-7274.

Information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence) or by visiting [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

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