Emergency Special Action No.: 3-KS-04-22
Issued at: Bethel, Alaska June 27, 2022

Effective Date: June 29, 2022 6:00 a.m.

Federal Public Waters of the Kuskokwim River Fishing Announcement

Pursuant to authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager, as In-Season Manager, hereby announces an additional fishing opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users. This additional opening reflects revisions to Emergency Special Action (ESA) 3-KS-01-22, issued May 02, 2022, which closed certain waters within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) to the harvest of salmon and certain fishing methods in order to ensure the continued viability of, and subsistence use of Chinook and Chum Salmon. ESA 3-KS-02-22 announced on June 18, 2022, allowed for an additional drift net opportunity and opened gillnet fishing upstream of Kalskag Bluffs. ESA 3-KS-03-22 announced on June 27th 2022 provided for set net opportunities. This action is specific to the area along the Kuskokwim shoreline in Aniak. All other sections of ESA 3-KS-01-22, 3-02-22, and 3-KS-03-22 remain in effect except for the section below, pertaining to the Aniak Box Closure Area.

Subsistence Fishing Opportunities:

(2) Aniak Box: The waters of the Kuskokwim River near Aniak, from a line formed between two points lat 61°35.264' N, long 159°33.459' W and lat 61°35.611' N, long 159°33.260' W due north to a point on the southeast corner of the sandbar (latitude 61° 35' 37" N, longitude 159° 33' 16" W) which is approximately the upstream boundary of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge will remain closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets, fish wheels, beach seines, and dip nets until further notice.

Subsistence fishing with rod and reel within the Aniak Box area is open to Federally qualified subsistence users with the following bag beginning 6:00 a.m. June 29, 2022 until further notice.

- 2 Chinook Salmon per day and 2 in possession;
- All Chum Salmon caught must be returned to the water alive;
- All other salmon (other than Chum Salmon) may be retained.

The subsistence users of Aniak have very limited locations to use gill nets. In addition, the Aniak River and the Aniak Box Closed Area (directly in front of the town) has been completely closed to retention of Chinook Salmon during conservation periods in recent years. It is estimated that this subsistence opportunity could result in roughly 300 Chinook Salmon being harvested during this summer’s opportunity. This limited harvest will benefit local subsistence users without jeopardizing escapement goals.
Access up-to-date information on fishing opportunities by calling 907-543-1008 or 907-543-3151 or visit the Refuge Facebook page or www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/.

By delegation from the Federal Subsistence Board:

Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

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