



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge  
PO Box 346  
Bethel, AK 99559



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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

PO Box 346

Bethel, AK 99559



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/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/).

By delegation from the Federal Subsistence Board:

Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager  
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

## DISTRIBUTION:

Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board  
Sara Boario, Alaska Regional Director, USFWS  
Mike Williams Sr., Chair, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
Kevin Whitworth, Interim Executive Director, KRITFC  
Raymond Oney, Chair, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Jack Reakoff, Chair, Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
LaMont Albertson, Co-Chair, Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group  
Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management,  
Rory Stark, Special Agent in Charge, LE Division, USFWS  
Vivian Korthius, Executive Director, Association of Village Council Presidents  
Brian Ridley, Chief/Chairman, Tanana Chiefs Conference  
Ben Mulligan, Deputy-Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Sgt. Brian Miller, Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Investigation  
Scott Ayers, Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management  
Theo Matuskowitz, Regulations Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management  
Jill Klein, Alaska Regional Subsistence Coordinator, USFWS