PARTIAL YUKON RIVER SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE IN DISTRICT 3

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION
Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 2-KS-02-22
Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, May 31, 2022

Effective Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 8:00 pm for District Y-3
Expiration Date: August 1, 2022, at 11:59 pm unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: The Federal Subsistence Board closed Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of Chinook, summer and fall Chum, and Coho salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users, effective on June 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, with specific Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings, closures, and fishing methods to be determined by the Federal Fisheries Manager.

This Emergency Special Action closes the Federal public waters (except for the Innoko River) of Yukon District Y-3 which includes the communities of Russian Mission and Holy Cross to the subsistence harvest and retention of Chinook and summer Chum salmon. This closure prohibits all directed subsistence fishing for Chinook and summer Chum salmon and closes Federal public waters in this district to gear larger than 4-inch stretched mesh and longer than 60 feet. If salmon are caught, they should be released alive but may be legally retained if dead. The use of fish wheels is not allowed during salmon closures.

REGULATION:
50 CFR 100.27(e)(3) Subsistence taking of fish—Yukon-Northern Area is amended to read:
(ii) Federal public waters of the Yukon Northern Area and the Yukon River drainage are closed to the harvest of Chinook, summer and fall Chum, and Coho Salmon except by Federal qualified subsistence users, effective on June 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022. Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings, closures, and fishing methods will be determined by the Federal in season Fisheries Manager.

Federal public waters of Yukon River District Y-3 (except for the Innoko River) are closed to the subsistence harvest and retention of Chinook and summer Chum salmon from 8:00 p.m. on June 7, 2022 until 11:59 p.m. on August 1, 2022.

During salmon closures, all gillnets larger than 4-inches must be removed from the water. Fishing for non-salmon species with 4-inch or smaller mesh gill nets will be allowed during
salmon fishing closures, however gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh are restricted to 60 feet. Live Chinook and summer Chum salmon that are incidentally caught using this gear must be released, however, dead fish may be retained.

Other non-salmon gear types, including dip net hook and line, longline, jigging gear, hand line, beach seine, fyke net, spear, or lead may be used to fish for non-salmon species all year, even during salmon fishing closures but all Chinook and summer Chum salmon caught must be released alive from these gears.

**JUSTIFICATION:**
The drainage-wide Chinook Salmon outlook is for a run size of 99,000 to 150,000 fish, and the Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon outlook is for a run of 41,000 to 52,000 fish. The drainage-wide summer Chum Salmon outlook is for a run size of 333,000 fish, with a range of 162,000 to 542,000 fish. For both Chinook and Summer Chum salmon, the runs will need to come in toward the upper end of the forecasts to meet escapement goals. Therefore, closures are warranted until run projections indicate goals can be met. Pursuant to Section 816 of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (2-KS-02-22) closes fishing for Chinook and summer Chum salmon in the Federal public waters of the Yukon River district 3 (with the exception of the Innoko River).

The Innoko River will be closed by a later emergency special action, based on salmon migration timing, in order to provide fishing opportunity for sheefish and other large non-salmon before salmon arrive. Closures are required until inseason run strength estimates indicate a harvestable surplus above escapement needs. This will likely require closures at least through the midpoint of each of the runs, when inseason run abundance projections become more accurate. Salmon fishing closures are issued in each district based on the historical timing of Chinook Salmon arrival in the area. These closures will be implemented upriver based on fish migration timing.

**CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH:**
The Yukon River salmon outlooks and management strategies were discussed this winter at the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council meetings; Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YR DFA) annual Preseason Fisheries Meeting; and at the Yukon River Panel.

The Federal manager held formal preseason management strategy Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation meetings with Yukon River drainage Tribal Governments on April 18, 19, and 20. Tribal Consultations will continue throughout the season when possible and when requested by Tribal Governments. Approximately 3,500 copies of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Preseason Outlook flier were mailed to Yukon River fishing households at the end of April.
The ADF&G fishery managers have also closed salmon fisheries in the non-Federal public waters for Yukon River District 3 effective June 7.

This action was taken following consultation with the ADF&G fishery managers. The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Chairs for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta; Eastern Interior; Seward Peninsula; and Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils were also notified, and review was provided by the Office of Subsistence Management.

DISTRIBUTION:
Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
Sara Boario, Alaska Regional Director, USFWS
Raymond Oney, Chair, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Jack Reakoff, Chair, Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Sue Entsminger, Chair, Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Louis Green Jr, Chair, Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management, Amee Howard, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Dave Rippeto, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, LE Division, USFWS
Preston Fant, Acting Special Agent in Charge, LE Division, USFWS
Vivian Korthius, Executive Director, Association of Village Council Presidents
Kevin Theonnes, Executive Director, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
Ben Mulligan, Deputy-Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Scott Ayers, Fisheries Division Leader, Office of Subsistence Management
George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Theo Matuskowitz, Office of Subsistence Management
Jill Klein, Alaska Regional Subsistence Coordinator, USFWS
Ben Stevens, Chair, Tanana Chiefs Conference Hunting and Fishing Task Force
Deena Jallen, Area Management Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Chrisine Gleason, Area Management Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eva Patton, Regional Subsistence Program Manager, National Park Service
Chris McKee, Subsistence Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management