



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

1101 E Tudor Rd, MS 121
Anchorage Alaska 99503



Forest Service

SUBSISTENCE FISHING

SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of 50 CFR Part 100.10 and .19
36 CFR Part 242.10 and .19

Special Action No.:	3-KS-04-15	Issued at:	Bethel, Alaska June 1, 2015
Effective Date:	June 7, 2015 6:01 a.m.		
Expiration Date:	July 20, 2015 5:59 a.m. Unless superseded by subsequent Special Action		

EXPLANATION:

Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, and Aniak Rivers in the Kuskokwim River Drainage

This Special Action closes all gill net use on the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, and Aniak rivers as well as on their salmon tributaries within the boundaries of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

REGULATION

50 CFR 100.27(e)(4)(ii) is amended to add:

Unless superseded by subsequent Special Action

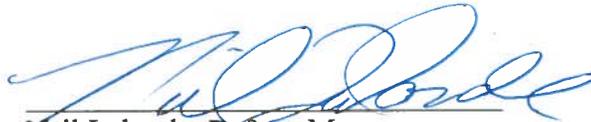
Effective 6:01 a.m., Sunday, June 7, 2015, all gill nets are prohibited on the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak and Aniak rivers and their salmon tributaries within the boundaries of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Non-salmon tributaries of these rivers including Birch Creek, Akulikutak River, Columbia Creek and Reindeer Slough are excluded 100-yards upstream from their confluence with the salmon tributaries from this closure. Net restrictions and scheduled openings described in 3-KS-03-15 remain in effect on the main Kuskokwim River and the Eek river and its salmon tributaries.

JUSTIFICATION

Due to the low Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon returns over the last several years and the failure to meet escapement goals at two of three weir projects in 2014, conservation measures are warranted in the 2015 season. The 2014 State of Alaska Chinook salmon drainage-wide return was estimated at 136,000 fish, which was well below the annual average of 243,000 fish over the last 25 years. The rivers and tributaries identified in this Emergency Special Action have experienced particularly poor Chinook salmon returns since 2008. Chinook salmon returns in the Kwethluk River have fallen below the lower bound of the escapement goal in six of the last seven years, and escapement in the Aniak, Kisaralik and Tuluksak rivers has been far below average. Even a very limited subsistence harvest could impact the likelihood of achieving sufficient escapement. These tributary-specific restrictions are warranted to provide adequate Chinook salmon escapement for the 2015 season.

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

By delegation to:



Neil Lalonde, Refuge Manager
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

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