



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Forest Service

Federal Subsistence Board News Release

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Opportunity Announced for Federally Qualified Subsistence Users to Harvest Chinook and Chum Salmon in the Kuskokwim River Downstream from Kalskag

In consultation with the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) and the State of Alaska, the Federal In-season Manager has opened a portion of Federal public waters of the main-stem Kuskokwim River to the harvest of Chinook and chum salmon by Federally qualified subsistence users for 72 hours, effective 12:01 p.m. (noon) on June 29, 2016 to 11:59 a.m. (noon) on July 2, 2016. This 72-hour opportunity will occur on Federal public waters from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary at the Kuskokwim River mouth and upstream to the line downstream of Kalskag at the south edge of Uknavig Slough and then due east to the edge of the bluff line. Federal public waters upstream of the Kalskag line remain open to the harvest of Chinook and chum salmon by Federally qualified subsistence users via **Special Action 3-KS-05-16**, issued on June 20, 2016. Federally qualified subsistence users include residents of the Kuskokwim River drainage and the villages of Chefornek, Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, and Kongiganek.

Approved gear types will include drift and set gillnets with the following restrictions:

- 6-inch or less mesh;
- May not exceed 45 meshes in depth;
- May not exceed 25 fathoms (150 feet) in length above the Johnson River to the Kalskag line (south edge of Uknavig Slough and east to the edge of the bluff line); and
- May not exceed 50 fathoms (300 feet) in length below the Johnson River to the refuge boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.

This limited opportunity is based on the need to conserve a lower than average Chinook salmon run and a potentially poor chum salmon run. While the Chinook salmon run is expected to be smaller than average, the Federal in-season manager considers it is strong enough to allow limited, directed opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users. During three previous Federal subsistence harvest opportunities on June 12, 16-17, and 21-24, an estimated 28,000 Chinook salmon were harvested. The longer opener will provide additional opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest Chinook and chum salmon while addressing conservation concerns.

Please report your harvest to your KRITFC commissioner to ensure that salmon harvest opportunities are addressed now and in the future.

On June 1, the Federal Subsistence Board closed Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of Chinook and chum salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users identified in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section 804 Subsistence User Prioritization analysis. The use of drift and set gillnets remains prohibited in Federal public waters for the Eek, Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, and Aniak rivers by Special Action 3-KS-03-16, issued on June 10, 2016.

This limited opportunity has been implemented by Federal Emergency Special Action **3-KS-07-16** under the delegated authority of the Federal Subsistence Board.

Access up-to-date information on fishing opportunities by calling 907-543-1037 or visit the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge [Facebook](#) page or [website](#). **Questions?** call the Refuge at (907) 543-3151 or at (800) 621-5804.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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