



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
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Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Forest Service

SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE IN KOYUKUK RIVER

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

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

Emergency Special Action No: 2-KS-07-22

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, June 17, 2022

Effective Date: Saturday, June 25, 2022, 8:00 pm for the Koyukuk River

Expiration Date: August 20, 2022, at 11:59 pm unless superseded by subsequent special action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 of the Koyukuk River 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 to all gillnets 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 the Koyukuk River are closed to the subsistence harvest and retention of Chinook and summer Chum salmon from 8:00 p.m. on June 25, 2022, until 11:59 p.m. on August 20, 2022.



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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 gillnets will be allowed during salmon fishing closures, however, gillnets with 4-inch or smaller mesh are restricted to 60 feet length. 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 62,000 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-07-22**) closes fishing for Chinook and summer Chum salmon in the Federal public waters of the Koyukuk River. 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 (YRDFA) 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 Koyukuk River effective June 25.



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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.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to: *Holly Carroll*

Holly Carroll
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Yukon River Inseason Fisheries Manager
Northern Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office

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