



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-03-22

Issued at: Bethel, Alaska June 27, 2022

Effective Date: June 29, 2022 6:00 a.m.

Federal Public Waters of the Kuskokwim River: Subsistence Fishing Announcement

Pursuant to authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager, as In-Season Manager, hereby announces several additional gillnet fishing opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users. These additional openings reflect revisions to Emergency Special Action (ESA) 3-KS-01-22, issued May 2, 2022, which closed certain waters within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Yukon Delta NWR) 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-KSA-02-22 further provided several Chinook and harvest opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users, the latest of which occurred on June 22, 2022. Since that time, the In-Season manager has continued to review data and information reported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and other parties and has engaged in numerous discussions with stakeholders concerning the prospect of providing additional harvest opportunities.

Like what occurred in 2021, the data indicates that this season's Chinook Salmon run is late or weak, that a conservation concern continues to exist, and that the run is not strong enough to support a complete rescission of the existing closure. However, ADF&G and the Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission agree, that limited opportunities to harvest Sockeye Salmon can be provided in specific areas along the shoreline that should limit the capture of both Chum and Chinook Salmon. Due to the expected strong Sockeye run and the subsistence user's needs for fish, the following opportunity is being announced. Pursuant to Section 804 of ANILCA, these limited re-openings will be afforded only to Federally qualified subsistence users.

The subsections below describe these additional openings and reiterate certain key closures and restrictions instituted by 3-KS-01-22 that remain in effect.

Federally Qualified Subsistence Fishing Opportunities:

(1) Set Gillnet Opportunity:

- **June 29 start at 6:00 am through June 30 at 6:00 pm (36 hours)**
- **July 3 start at 6:00 am through July 4 at 6:00 pm (36 hours)**

Set gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, may not exceed 75 feet in length and 45 meshes in depth. Set gillnets may not be operated more than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark (the bank/shoreline



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where vegetation is growing), must be attached to the bank, and substantially fished perpendicular to shore.

Alternative Methods- Nothing in ESA 3-KS-01-22 or the present action prohibits the use of alternative methods of fishing (including use of hook and line, dip net, beach seine, and fish wheels) except for the tributary details mentioned below.

Tributary Details- The following Federal public waters within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge remain closed to the harvest of Chinook and Chum Salmon and by all means and methods and by all users:

- **The Eek River;**
- **The Kwethluk River drainage beginning at its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough**
- **The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G regulatory markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough and Kuskokuak Slough;**
- **The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers;**
- **The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River; and**
- **The Aniak box defined as: The waters of the Kuskokwim River main stem from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak downstream to a line formed from the northwest corner of the runway (latitude 61° 35' 16" N, longitude 159° 33' 28" W), due north to a point on the southeast corner of the sandbar (latitude 61° 35' 37" N, longitude 159° 33' 16" W).**

Fishing from tributaries not listed above is restricted to fishing 100 yards upriver from the mouth of the river (confluence with the main stem Kuskokwim River).

Access up-to-date information on fishing opportunities by calling 907-543-3151 or visit the Refuge [Facebook](#) page or www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/.

By delegation from the Federal Subsistence Board:

Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

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