



# Federal Subsistence Board News Release



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

Forest Service

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Subsistence Fishing Opportunities for Kuskokwim River Mainstem**

Pursuant to authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) Manager, as In-Season Manager, in close coordination with the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC), announces additional fishing opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users:

### **(1) Set and/or Drift Gillnet:**

- **August 03, 2023 starting at 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. (12 hours total)**

During the Set and/or Drift Gillnet opportunity, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh and may not exceed 45 meshes in depth and 50 fathoms (300-feet) in aggregate (total set and drift gillnet) length below the Johnson River and 25 fathoms (150 feet) in aggregate (total set and drift gillnet) length above the Johnson River. Federally qualified subsistence users may retain all salmon during these periods. The salmon bearing tributaries listed in FSA-YD-23-01 will remain closed to all gillnets for all salmon and all methods and means for Chinook and Chum salmon to all users.

After this gillnet opportunity expires, the main-stem of the Kuskokwim River (from the Kalskag Bluff Line to the mouth of the Kuskokwim) revert to closed to the use of gillnets under FSA-YD-23-01.

### **(2) Rod and Reel:**

- **Rod and reel fishing in all tributaries within YDNWR is open to the retention of Coho Salmon starting August 1, 2023 at 12:01 a.m. until further notice.**

This includes all Federal waters mentioned in FSA-YD-23-01 (including salmon-bearing tributaries), as well as waters of the Aniak Box on the main stem Kuskokwim River within YDNWR boundaries. Federally qualified subsistence users may retain Chinook Salmon in the Aniak Box per the Federal press release on July 6, 2023. All users must immediately release all Chum and Chinook Salmon in all other salmon-bearing tributaries listed in FSA-YD-23-01.

The intent of these opportunities is to allow Federally qualified subsistence users conservation-based opportunities to harvest salmon and whitefish during traditional fishing seasons. This is in keeping with Title VIII of ANILCA's rural subsistence priority; YDNWR and KRITFC's joint [Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Strategy](#); and YDNWR and KRITFC's review of in-season Chinook, chum, sockeye and coho salmon assessments, including data from Indigenous Knowledge and observations, subsistence harvest reports, Bethel sonar, and Bethel and Aniak Test Fisheries.

Information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence) or by visiting [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](http://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

**Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues?** If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing [fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov](mailto:fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov).

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