



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:
August 8, 2023

Contact: Boyd Blihovde
(907) 543-3151
Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov

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 09, 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.

The intent of these opportunities is to allow Federally qualified subsistence users conservation-based opportunities to harvest salmon and whitefish. 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 or by visiting 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.