



Federal Subsistence Board News Release



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

Forest Service

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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, hereby announces additional fishing opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users:

(1) Set Gillnet Only:

- **July 7, 2023 starting at 5 p.m. through July 8, 2023 at 5 p.m. (24 hours total)**

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

(2) Set or Drift Gillnet:

- **July 11, 2023 starting at 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. (6 hours total)**

During the Set 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, Chum, and Coho salmon to all users during this gillnet period.

After each gillnet opportunity expires, Kuskokwim waters revert to closed under FSA-YD-23-01.

(3) Aniak Box:

The waters of the Kuskokwim River near Aniak, from a line formed between two points latitude 61° 35.264' N, longitude 159° 33.459' W and latitude 61° 35.611' N, longitude 159° 33.260' W due north to a point on the southeast corner of the sandbar (latitude 61° 35' 37" N, longitude 159° 33' 16" W) which is approximately the upstream boundary of the Yukon Delta National

Wildlife Refuge will remain closed to fishing with gillnets, fish wheels, beach seines, and dip nets until further notice.

Subsistence fishing with rod and reel within the Aniak Box area is open to Federally qualified subsistence users with the following bag limits beginning at 12:01 a.m. July 7, 2023 and until further notice:

- a. Chinook Salmon:
 - i. Under 20 inches (as measured from the mid eye to the tail fork):
 1. May be retained with no bag or possession limits;
 - ii. Over 20 inches (as measured from the mid eye to the tail fork):
 1. May be retained with a 2 per day, 2 in possession limit;
- b. Sockeye and Pink Salmon:
 - i. May be retained with no bag or possession limits.
- c. Chum and Coho Salmon:
 - i. May not be retained and must be returned to the water alive and unharmed.

The intent of these opportunities is to allow Federally qualified subsistence users to target abundant sockeye salmon and undersized Chinook Salmon individuals in the Aniak Box. This is in keeping with Title VIII of ANILCA's rural subsistence priority; YDNWR and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (KRITFC) joint [Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Strategy](#); and YDNWR and KRITFC's review of in-season Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon assessment data to-date, 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.

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