



## Advisory Announcement

*Released: July 20, 2026*

## CONTACT:

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### 2026 Yukon River Salmon Fall Fishery Announcement #4

#### **District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedule Emergency Order Number 3-S-FY-02-26**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Lower Yukon Area districts began transitioning to fall season management on July 13. The Board of Fisheries officially designated fall chum salmon as a Stock of Management Concern at its most recent meeting and changed the start of the fall management season to begin three days earlier than normal. The transition will progress upriver based on historic fall chum salmon migration timing.

The 2026 fall chum salmon run size is anticipated to be well below average. The preseason projection based on the relationship between summer and fall chum salmon run sizes is for a run that is likely to be greater than 400,000 fish. Even with a run size within the escapement goal range (300,000–600,000 fish), Canadian treaty goals are not anticipated to be met. Therefore, directed subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon in the mainstem Yukon River is highly unlikely to occur. The 2026 coho salmon run is also projected to be below average and potential fishing opportunities will be based on inseason run abundance. Using a precautionary approach, subsistence fishing for fall chum and coho salmon will be closed at the start of the fall season. Nonsalmon subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is being reduced to protect migrating salmon and will close during part of each week (see schedule below).

#### **Subsistence Management Actions:**

**District 4** (including the communities of Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Wiseman, Bettles, Galena, and Ruby):

Currently, subsistence fishing is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with dip nets, beach seines, manned fish wheels, and hook and line gear for nonsalmon and chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types.

**Effective at the dates and times listed below, subsistence fishing for fall chum and coho salmon will close.**

Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive immediately from selective gear types.

**Subdistrict 4-A Lower (Grayling and Anvik): 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 22**

**Subdistrict 4-A Upper and the Koyukuk River (Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Wiseman, Bettles): 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 26**

**Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (Galena and Ruby): 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 29**

**Nonsalmon****4-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity Districtwide**

The opportunity to harvest nonsalmon with 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets of 60-feet or shorter length is allowed in all waters of District 4 and the Koyukuk River, not including of the permit area. Fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh nets will be open on a weekly schedule from 12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays through 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays and will be closed for the remainder of the week. Nets are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net near shore. Gillnets cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway. Fishermen should fish this nonsalmon gear in areas where resident species are more likely to be encountered than salmon (i.e. sloughs). Fishing with other nonsalmon gears, including manned fish wheel, hand line, longline, fyke net, dip net, and beach seine, is open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Chinook, chum, and coho salmon must be released alive from nonsalmon gear (other than 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets).

**Effective at the dates and times listed below, subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets will reopen on a weekly schedule from 12:00 p.m. noon Thursdays to 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays, until further notice.**

**Subdistrict 4-A Lower (Grayling and Anvik): 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 22**

**Subdistrict 4-A Upper and the Koyukuk River (Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Wiseman, Bettles): 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 26**

**Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (Galena and Ruby): 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 29**

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman. Gillnet gear in the permit area must be 3½ inches or smaller mesh size and cannot be used from August 20 to June 30.

**6-inch or Smaller Mesh Gillnet Nonsalmon Opportunity in Designated Areas**

Subsistence fishing for whitefish and other nonsalmon species with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets will be allowed in designated areas off the mainstem river where salmon are not known to be migrating or spawning. These areas were identified using local knowledge shared with management agencies and by using the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Anadromous Waters Catalog. Subsistence fishing for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon will close and whitefish subsistence fishing opportunity with 4-inch or smaller gillnets in the mainstem Yukon River will be reduced to protect migrating salmon. The designated areas for targeting whitefish and other nonsalmon species with 6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets are listed below.

**Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 22, subsistence fishing with set gillnets will open in the rivers, sloughs, and lakes that are listed below and shown in the maps (Figure 1 and Figure 2), until further notice. Set gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and 60-feet or shorter in length. This is to provide an opportunity to harvest whitefish and other nonsalmon species. Gillnets cannot block more than ½ width of any waterway.**

The following areas are open using 6-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets for whitefish and other nonsalmon species only, **from 500-feet upstream of a closed area**. Nets must be set upstream of the coordinates listed below.

| <i>Whitefish/Nonsalmon Area</i>                               | <i>Latitude</i> | <i>Longitude</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bear Creek (near Galena)                                      | 64° 49.231' N   | 157° 06.702' W   |
| Bering Creek upstream of the Bering Slough confluence         | 64° 57.888' N   | 154° 07.776' W   |
| Big Creek (near Ruby)                                         | 64° 47.709' N   | 155° 18.990' W   |
| Bishop Creek upstream of the Pilot Mountain Slough confluence | 64° 44.588' N   | 157° 18.482' W   |

|                                                              |               |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Deer Creek upstream of the Ninemile Slough confluence        | 64° 49.443' N | 155° 11.397' W |
| Dulbi Slough                                                 | 65° 26.685' N | 156° 18.577' W |
| Gohn Creek                                                   | 64° 38.924' N | 156° 25.519' W |
| Hodegaden Creek                                              | 64° 58.184' N | 157° 34.094' W |
| JR Slough                                                    | 65° 01.747' N | 157° 20.231' W |
| Junekaket Creek                                              | 64° 53.731' N | 154° 48.151' W |
| Klatsuta River                                               | 65° 02.958' N | 153° 49.181' W |
| Main Creek (tributary to Ruby Slough)                        | 64° 42.667' N | 155° 52.710' W |
| Natlaratlen River                                            | 65° 02.324' N | 157° 10.588' W |
| Nayuka River                                                 | 65° 38.327' N | 155° 57.396' W |
| Nikolai Slough                                               | 65° 00.615' N | 157° 22.240' W |
| Papa Willie Creek upstream of the Yokontoh Slough confluence | 63° 22.929' N | 159° 22.715' W |
| Saint Joe Creek                                              | 63° 13.967' N | 159° 41.692' W |
| Soonkakat River                                              | 64° 42.655' N | 158° 02.441' W |
| Squirrel Creek                                               | 64° 45.891' N | 157° 55.080' W |
| Twin Slough                                                  | 64° 53.620' N | 154° 48.295' W |
| Whakatna Creek                                               | 64° 52.404' N | 156° 58.601' W |
| Yankee Slough                                                | 63° 14.806' N | 159° 40.914' W |

If there are multiple names for a river or slough, please let us know by contacting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Emmonak (907-949-1320) or Fairbanks (907-459-7274). You can also contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 907-334-5391 or 907-334-5389.

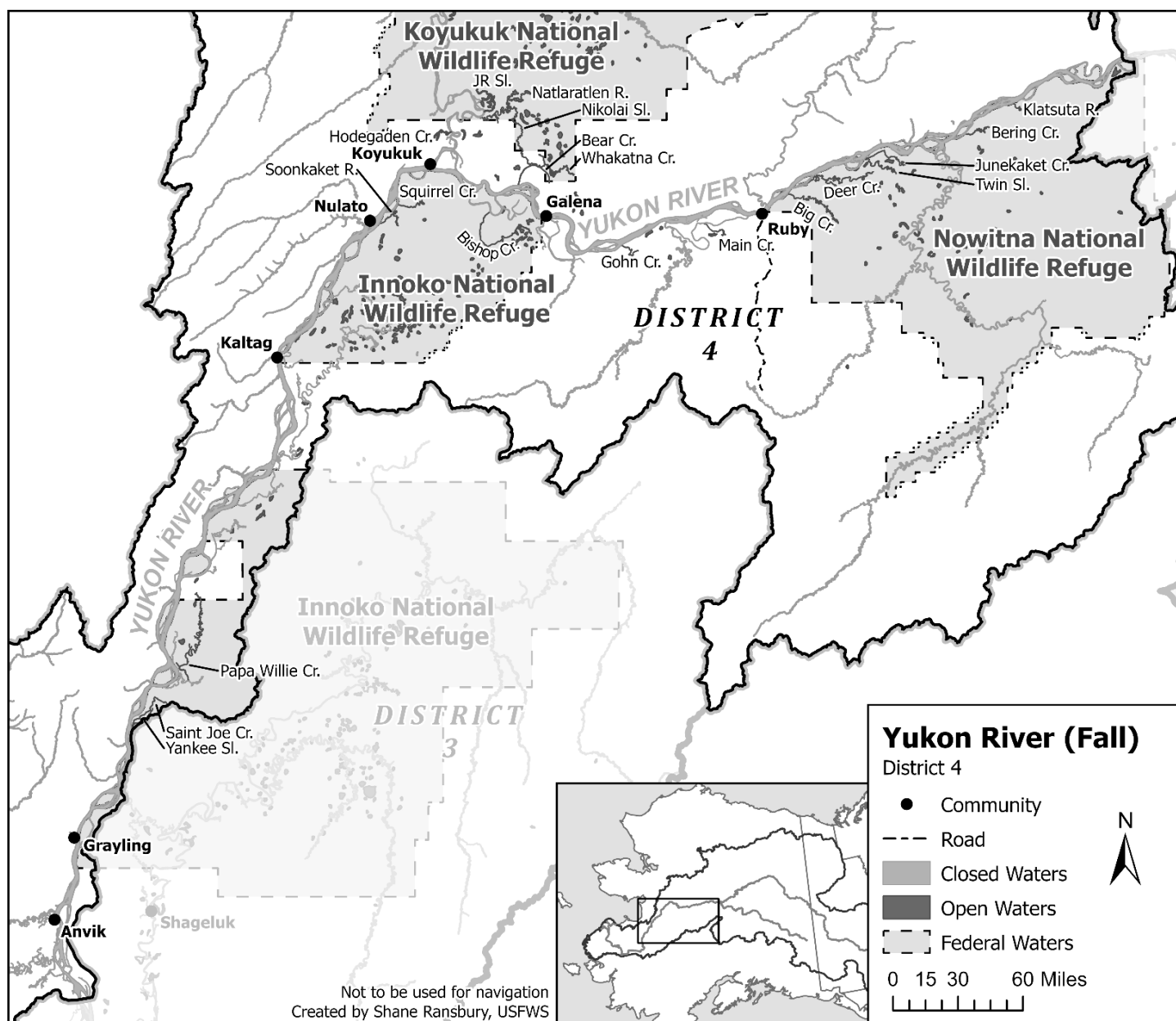


Figure 1.—For District 4, all labeled waterways and all lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them are open to 6-inch gillnets for non-salmon (dark gray). Rivers and sloughs that are open to 6-inch non-salmon fishing have a closure buffer from the mouth to 500 feet upstream. **The Yukon River mainstem remains closed to 6-inch mesh gillnets.** Areas that remain closed to 6-inch gillnets are shown in light gray.

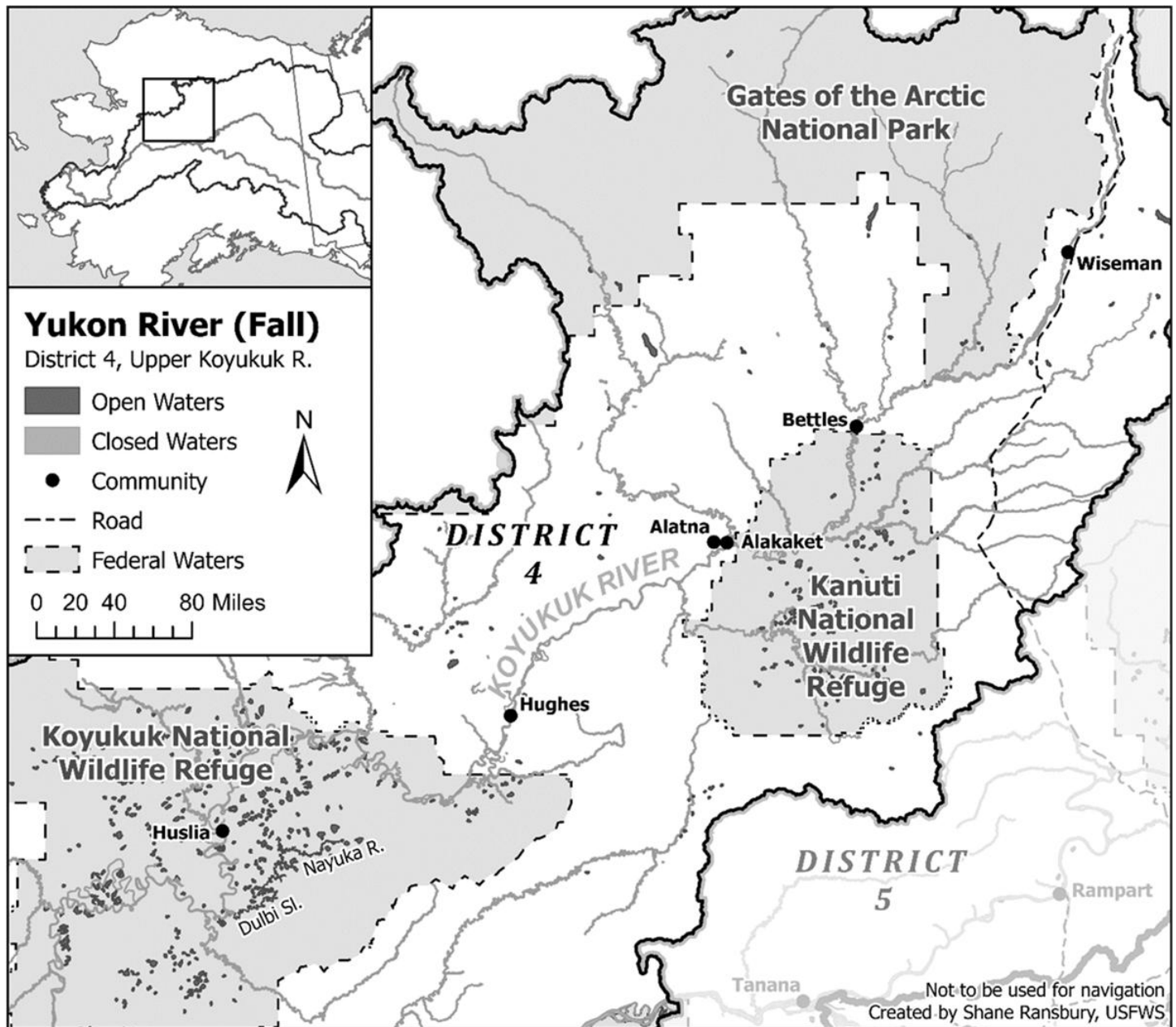


Figure 2.—For the Koyukuk River, all labeled waterways and all lakes without a closed drainage flowing into them are open to 6-inch gillnets for non-salmon (dark gray). Rivers and sloughs that are open to 6-inch non-salmon fishing have a closure buffer from the mouth to 500 feet upstream. **The Yukon River mainstem remains closed to 6-inch mesh gillnets.** Areas that remain closed to 6-inch gillnets are shown in light gray.

### Federal Special Action

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have coordinated on this advisory announcement. The USFWS Federal Inseason Manager has issued a separate Federal special action TSA 03-FC-04-26 with the same fishing schedule and restrictions for all users in waters adjacent to Federal Land. For additional information concerning Yukon River Federal Special Actions contact the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; holly\_carroll@fws.gov, (907) 351-3029 or Assistant Manager, Keith Herron; keith\_herron@fws.gov, (907) 334-5391.



This is an announcement by the ADF&G in cooperation with the USFWS.

Federal Special Actions will be posted on [www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions) and shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

ADF&G Advisory Announcements and fish counts can be obtained by visiting [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG](https://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG) or [www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts). To receive advisory announcements by email, sign up at [www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov).



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